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Paul Revere

# ANNALS

OF THE

# MASSACHUSETTS

# CHARITABLE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION.

COMPILED BY

JOSEPH T. BUCKINGHAM.

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BOSTON:
PRESS OF CROCKER AND BREWSTER,
47, Washington-street.
1853.

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# PRELIMINARY CORRESPONDENCE.

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*Boston, March* 10, 1852.

Hon. Joseph T. Buckingham:

Dear Sir, — The undersigned have been appointed by the government of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, a committee, with full powers, to confer with you respecting a history of that institution. They gladly acceded to your request, some time since, for the loan of our records, for the purpose of collecting the materials for an historical work in a manuscript form.

We have recently understood that you have made some progress in that compilation, and we have been instructed, by the board, to invite you to change somewhat your original design, and to furnish us the work in such a form that it may be published by the association, for the use of the members.

The government would have reason for congratulation should you comply with our wishes, that one who is so eminently fitted, by experience in our affairs and his peculiar literary gifts, should be willing to devote his services to the subject.

The awakened interest recently evinced in our community, in all historical matters, particularly as connected with the prominent actors in public affairs within the last half century,

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many of whom were members of our association, will render the work of some regard even out of our own ranks, while to our own members and their families it will be invaluable, as presenting, in a tangible form, an honorable record of the past usefulness of the association, and be also an incentive to still greater efficiency in those who shall hereafter have the control of its affairs.

We therefore trust that you will add one more favor to the many benefits you have already conferred upon your associates, and will devote a portion of that leisure, which your well-spent life has richly earned, in a detailed retrospect of the men and events, and the progress of an institution, which have exerted no inconsiderable influence in the community in which we live.

We remain truly yours, &c.

FREDERIC W. LINCOLN, Jun.
OSMYN BREWSTER,
JOSEPH M. WIGHTMAN,
*Committee.*

To Messrs. Lincoln, Brewster, and Wightman.

Friends and Associates, — In compliance with your request, as a committee of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, I now place in your hands the product of a design I had formed near two years ago. For your gratification and for my own credit, I wish it were more worthy of your acceptance; but, if the labor of compilation were still further protracted, it is not certain that the result would be more satisfactory.

With deep respect, I dedicate the work to the members of the association, as a token of true and faithful regard. For more than forty years I have enjoyed the privilege of their fellowship; and I cannot refrain from thus publicly expressing my grateful acknowledgement of the courtesy and confidence, they have repeatedly manifested, by bestowing upon me the most distinguished honors in their power to bestow.

These Annals do not aspire to the dignity of history. They present little more than an abstract of official records. In many instances our records are deficient in details, and, in others, involve disagreements, which could not easily be rectified. Some deficiencies have been supplied and some discrepances have been reconciled, from my own personal recollections and the remembrance of others. Some of the details may be tedious and uninteresting. I am not, myself, satisfied that a better judgement than mine would not have excluded many particulars, that have here found a place, and

introduced, perhaps, others, that have been omitted. It may be thought, too, that transactions and incidents, which the taste and morals of the present day would disapprove, should have been permitted to slumber on the pages of a manuscript record. But let it be remembered, that practices now considered, in some quarters, as vices, were not, many years ago, deemed inconsistent with personal virtue, and their indulgence found advocates and apologists among high-toned champions for refined morality. If a better state of society now exists, let us not reproach our seniors and fathers for participating in the follies of their day and generation, but "thank God and take courage." Whatever may have been their faults, their virtues would not suffer in a comparison with ours. Better systems of education may have given to some of us opportunities for higher intellectual culture; but it may be safely declared, without derogating from the merits of the living, that a set of nobler-minded, generous-hearted, upright and industrious men could not be selected from the long catalogue of those, whose names are given in the following pages.

It will doubtless be perceived that the names of those who have been admitted to membership by ballot, greatly outnumber the names that have been printed with the several editions of the constitution. The discrepancy may be explained by the fact, that those lists contain only the names of such as were *then* members or had died without resigning or forfeiting their membership. Many persons have been admitted by ballot, who never signed the constitution, and many have, from delinquency, or other causes, ceased to be members. From a proper regard to feelings which might be injured by such a disclosure, the names of the delinquents are not given in these annals, although they stand as such on the record.

The extracts from records and the reports of committees are presented, except in two or three instances, without alteration in regard to their phraseology. For obvious reasons, changes of such a nature were deemed inexpedient. If the work should fall into the hands of critics, or come under the notice of other persons than those for whose use and gratification it was intended, let it be understood, that these original documents were not written by professed scholars, but chiefly by men who were, in the truest sense of the words, SELF INSTRUCTED; — men, who could wield the sledge and the broad-axe, ply the trowel and the saw, or flourish the awl and the needle, with honest pride and fearless confidence in their own true-hearted integrity, but who had not been accustomed to the use of the pen, nor been taught to express their thoughts with grammatical accuracy. What they wrote was not written for publication; but yet, it is believed, their productions will not suffer *greatly* on a comparison with compositions of much *greater* and more pertinacious pretension.

I apprehend that the brief biographical notices will not be the least interesting part of the book, if, indeed, any portion of it should be found to possess merit enough to redeem it from speedy and utter oblivion. The preparation of such notices has been the most pleasant part of my labor; they would have been amplified in details and augmented in number, but for the difficulty of procuring information. Some of these sketches, brief and imperfect as they are, have cost the writing of many letters, and the walk of many a tedious mile. Applications for facts and dates have not, always, been successful, and letters, addressed in earnest and respectful terms, in some instances, have been treated with marked and silent neglect. Relatives and friends of deceased members, who have promptly and cheerfully responded to my inquiries, are entitled to a courteous acknowledgement.

With all the care that has been bestowed on the compilation, there are, probably, many errors;—some owing, perhaps, to imperfection in the records, but more, I fear, to inability in the compiler. It is unnecessary to point out all its defects, (for they are but too apparent,) nor to present any further apology for their existence, (for I know the candor of those to whom it is dedicated.) With my heartiest hopes that the association will continue to enjoy the honor and respect which it has justly acquired, and that its members, individually, may pursue their prosperous career of industry, honor, and integrity, long after the hand which traces these lines shall have forgotten its cunning, I remain their friend and associate,

JOSEPH T. BUCKINGHAM.

*Cambridge, September*, 1853.

# ANNALS

OF THE

# Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association.

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The institution which is now known by the name of the "Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association" was organized in the year 1795. From small and almost insignificant beginnings, it has become, in its maturity, powerful and important, and exercises an imposing and salutary influence on the civil, social and industrial condition of the city of Boston. In its infancy, it was doomed to contend with jealousy and prejudice,—two of the most insidious and intractable opponents to the melioration of difficulties, or the progress of improvement.

During the troublous and perplexing times which preceded the Revolution, some of the mechanics of Boston performed essential service in resisting the oppressive measures of the British government, and the whole body of them, with a very few exceptions, were active and vigorous, in opposition to arbitrary power. Without the advantage which might have been derived from a formal organization, as a party, they seemed to act, as it were, by intuition. Doubtless there were associations of individuals,—drawn together by feelings of common interest and a sense of common danger,—in which measures of resistance, perhaps of retaliation, were devised and matured. Meetings of "Liberty Boys,"—choice spirits of the age,—were frequently held, in places not frequented by the public, the proceedings of which were not divulged, and whose decisions were known only by succeeding events.

These secret and confidential assemblages of mechanics (called *caucuses**) were upheld and encouraged by the Hancocks, the Adamses, the Otises, the Warrens, and others, whose counsels were considered as oracular. Such was the general and unlimited confidence, reposed in a few of the most active and resolute, that the multitude generally adopted, without hesitation, the course of action which they *seemed* to have decreed. From the passing of the Stamp Act to the evacuation of Boston by the British troops, the mechanics were, proverbially, prompt, energetic, and efficient in the execution of all projects designed to secure personal freedom and political independence.

After the revolutionary war and the acquisition of national independence, the mechanics of Boston acted a conspicuous part in the establishment of a constitutional government. In 1788, the Constitution of the United States was subjected to a long and elaborate discussion, in the Convention of Massachusetts. Its opponents were numerous, and its friends began to fear that it might be rejected. Some of those who opposed its adoption were heard to say that it would not have been adopted but for *outside influence*. The Boston mechanics were important agents in securing its ratification. They held repeated meetings at the Green Dragon tavern, passed resolutions adapted to operate on the convention, and adopted an address to that body, which was carried up and presented by a mass of mechanics and tradesmen, forming an imposing procession, led by Paul Revere and his associates. This manifestation of popular sentiment, operating on some of the leading members opposed to the constitution, it has been said, decided the fate of that instrument for Massachusetts.

Rivalries and jealousies frequently and naturally exist among persons of identical professions and pursuits, and no claim is set up for the Boston mechanics of preceding genera-

* There is a current opinion that the word *caucus* originated from the fact that these secret meetings were frequently held in premises occupied by *caulkers* and *gravers*. I think I have seen in an old newspaper, of tory politics, a reference to a *caulkers' meeting*.

tions, that they were exempt from the common infirmity. Some of the wiser and more intelligent among them perceived the utility that might result from an association, whose aim should be to raise all its members to the level of the highest in the scale of excellence,—to aid each other in their struggles for improvement and in the acquisition of wealth and independence,—to labor for the advancement of the arts which add to the conveniences, comforts, and refinements of society,—and to cherish and diffuse the sentiments of generosity, magnanimity, benevolence, and fraternal affection. Such, it is believed, were the motives which led to the formation of the institution, whose origin and progress an attempt is made to exhibit in the succeeding pages.

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## 1795.

The records of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association contain no account of the incipient measures which resulted in its institution. Most of those by whose agency it was formed have long been dead, and the only existing record of their earliest proceedings is found in the newspapers of that period. The Columbian Centinel of December 31, 1794, contains the following advertisement:—

☞The Tradesmen, Mechanics, and Manufacturers of this town and vicinity, who keep apprentices, are desired to meet at the Green Dragon, on Tuesday evening next, at 6 o'clock, for the purpose of consulting on measures for petitioning the General Court, to revise and amend the Law respecting apprentices.

There was no signature to this advertisement. There is a tradition, that Paul Revere,—one of the most influential mechanics of the town, and one whom the others were accustomed to consult on matters that were deemed of general interest to them as a body,—was surprized on seeing the notice, and thought it rather an act of presumption in the anonymous author to publish it without his knowledge. It was ascertained, upon inquiry, that Henry Purkitt, one of the most

respectable mechanics, was the author or instigator of the publication. It is presumed that a meeting was held agreeably to the call, but no record of its proceedings is known to exist. It is also inferred, from the language of the advertisement, that the writer of it, at that time, intended nothing more than to procure the passage of a law that should put a stop to the practice, then and afterwards too prevalent, of apprentices deserting their masters and obtaining employment from others, before they had properly served out a regular term of apprenticeship. This was undoubtedly the germ from which has grown the present large and influential institution. It is not probable that any petition was then agreed upon, as no notice of any is to be found on the journals or among the files of the Legislature.

The Centinel of January 14, 1795, contains the following notice :—

☞The Committee of Tradesmen are reminded that their meeting is to be held at the Green Dragon, to-morrow evening, 6 o'clock, when their punctual attendance is required.

The next information we have of their proceedings is the following, in the Centinel of January 17 :—

NOTICE.

The Mechanics of this town are requested to meet at Concert Hall, on Monday evening next, at 6 o'clock, for the purpose of receiving the report of their Committee, chosen on the 5th inst. on the subject of a Petition to the General Court. A general attendance is requested.

PAUL REVERE, *Chairman.*

In the interval between the date of this notice and the 28th of February, it is supposed there were several meetings, at which the report of the committee was discussed. On the day last mentioned, a notice appeared in the newspapers, as follows :—

ASSOCIATION OF MECHANICS.

☞The Report of the Committee of Mechanics, on the subject of an Association, will be distributed this day. Those who may happen to receive them, are requested, after reading, to communicate them to their friends.

All researches for a copy of this report have been unavailing. It is probable that it embraced a draft of the regulations referred to in the next advertisement.

March 11. The following notice appeared in the newspapers:—

MEETING OF MECHANICS.

☞The Mechanics of the town of Boston are requested to meet at Concert Hall, THIS EVENING, precisely at 7 o'clock, for the purpose of taking into consideration and deciding on the Report of their Committee, appointed on the 19th of January, for the purpose of drafting regulations for the proposed Association of Mechanics of this town. As the subject is of prime importance, and as the sentiments of every one on the subject are desired, it is requested that a general and punctual attendance will be given. Those who have received the printed copies of the report are requested to bring them with them at the meeting.

PAUL REVERE, per order.

March 18. Another advertisement, signed by Paul Revere, notified the mechanics of the town that their meeting stood adjourned to the 19th inst.; when it was expected that the discussion of the report of the committee on Rules and Regulations would be completed, and a committee appointed to carry them into effect.

March 24. Mr. Revere gave notice that "The Constitution of the Associated Mechanics of the Town of Boston will be ready for signing on Saturday next, at Mr. Ebenezer Larkin's Bookstore in Cornhill." This notice was repeated on Saturday, March 28, with the following addition:—"N. B. The book will be kept open at said store, from day to day, for signing."

It does not distinctly appear why it is stated in the records that the Association was "Instituted March 15, 1795,"—as there is no record of any meeting on that day, nor of any vote, accepting the constitution. The words quoted do indeed appear on the title-page of the Book of Constitutions, but, from variation in the hand-writing, were evidently placed there some years afterward. The following is a copy of the constitution.

## CONSTITUTION.

It is universally admitted that the combined operation of the mechanic powers hath been the source of those useful inventions and scientific arts, which have given to polished society its wealth, conveniences, respectability, and defence, and which have ameliorated the condition of its citizens. Rational, therefore, is the inference, that the association of those who conduct those powers will prove highly beneficial to them, by promoting mutual good offices and fellowship;—by assisting the necessitous;—encouraging the ingenious;—and rewarding the faithful. To make an experiment to effect these desirable ends is the great object of the present associates, who, placing a generous confidence in each other, agree to be governed, as a society, by the following Regulations:—

### ARTICLE I.

§ 1. The style of this Association shall be *The Associated Mechanics and Manufacturers of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

§ 2. This Association shall have a common seal, which shall always be in the care of the secretary, and shall be attached to all certificates of the association.

§ 3. This Association shall consist of mechanics and manufacturers only. Every candidate shall be of twenty-one years of age;—if a mechanic, he shall be a master-workman;—if a manufacturer, he shall be a proprietor of a manufactory, or a superintendent thereof:—He shall be a person of good moral character, who shall have fulfilled his engagements as an apprentice:—He shall stand proposed at a previous meeting of the association or board of trustees;—shall be recommended by the trustees of the association; and shall obtain the votes of two thirds of the members present at a regular meeting thereof. He shall not exercise the privilege of a member until he shall have signed these regulations, and paid the secretary a sum not less than One dollar and fifty cents.

On signing the regulations, every member shall receive a certificate of membership. He shall pay therefor One dollar,—Twenty-five cents of which shall be the fee of the secretary.

A member may be expelled for misconduct, to be determined such only by a vote of two thirds of the members present at a regular meeting. He forfeits his membership when he shall employ or entertain any bound apprentice, who shall have left the person he was bound to, without said person's consent; and when he shall have refused to pay his assessments for one year after being called upon therefor by the secretary,—extraordinary cases excepted, to be determined by the association. After being expelled, or forfeiting his membership, he shall not be readmitted, unless he be re-proposed, obtain the votes of three quarters of the members present at a regular meeting of the association, and pay not less than One dollar and fifty cents.

§ 4. The officers of the association shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, nine Trustees, and a Secretary; all of whom, excepting the trustees, shall be chosen separately by written votes. The trustees may be voted for on one written list. A majority of votes shall make a choice. They shall constitute a Board, the style of which shall be *The President and Trustees of the Associated Mechanics and Manufacturers of Massachusetts.* Seven of them shall form a quorum.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the society and trustees. He has power to call special meetings on suitable application. He shall sign all the acts and certificates of the association and trustees. He shall have power to appoint such temporary subordinate officers as from time to time shall be deemed necessary for the promotion of order and the arrangement of processions.

The Vice-President exercises all the functions of the president in his absence.

In the absence of the president and vice-president, the Treasurer presides at all meetings, but cannot sign any acts or certificates of the association, as president.

The Treasurer shall be entrusted with the funds and moneys of the association. He shall give bonds to the president and trustees for the faithful performance of his trust. He shall report annually the amount and species of the funds in his possession. He shall pay no moneys unless on a warrant, signed by the president, vice-president, and two trustees.

The Secretary shall collect all the moneys of the association;—he shall pay the same to the treasurer, who shall receipt therefor;—he shall present a statement of his receipts and payments, annually, in December;—he shall keep fair and regular journals of all proceedings, meetings and votes of the society;—he shall attend all meetings of the society and board of trustees, and such committees as shall require his attendance. He shall not be eligible to vote at the board of trustees. He shall be exempted from all assessments, and shall have an annual compensation.

The President and Trustees shall superintend the prudential concerns of the association;—they are the guardians of its interest, honor, respectability, and prosperity. They may correspond with any other association of mechanics and manufacturers, but they must lay such correspondence before the association, for its information. They shall meet monthly on the concerns of the association; but their expenses shall not be borne by the association. They may make their own by-laws, not inconsistent with these regulations. Three of the trustees go out of office annually.

The meetings of the society shall be on the third Thursdays of December, March, June, and September, at such time and place as shall be agreed on.

The annual meeting shall be in December, when there shall be a public festival. The choice of officers will be in December, annually.

The roll shall be called at half an hour after the time at which the meeting is notified.

ARTICLE II. THE FUNDS.

§ 1. The Funds of this association shall be appropriated in promoting the interest thereof;—in assisting the necessitous;—in encouraging the ingenious, and rewarding the faithful. They shall be invested in the public stock, at the discretion of the president and trustees. They shall be raised,—

First,—From the assessment of One dollar, paid by each member, on admission:—

Secondly,—From the assessment on each member, annually, of One dollar, to be paid by quarterly assessments:—

Thirdly,—By such donations and legacies as may, from time to time, be made the society.

The additional Fifty cents, paid by each member on admission, and all fines recovered, shall constitute a floating fund, for defraying the contingent expenses of the society, not otherwise provided for.

§ 2. There shall be constituted an additional fund, to be called *The Funeral Charitable Fund.* It shall be raised by the voluntary subscriptions of the members, of Twenty-five cents each, to be paid the secretary. It shall be thus appropriated:—

Whenever a member, who has subscribed to the fund, dies, it shall be the duty of the president, vice-president, and two of the trustees, to notify and direct the treasurer to pay to the widow or family of such deceased member, the sum of Forty dollars,—together with a letter of condolence.

Whenever the above sum shall be thus appropriated, the secretary shall assess the subscribers to the fund, to the amount thereof, to replace the same.

No one shall participate of this fund who is not a member, and a subscriber thereto. A subscriber forfeits his claim thereto whenever he shall have neglected to pay his assessments for one year after being called on therefor by the secretary. (Extraordinary cases only excepted, to be determined such by the subscribers.)

Every subscriber to this fund shall have a certificate of the same.

ARTICLE III. GENERAL REGULATIONS.

§ 1. To reward industry, sober habits, and fidelity, the association decrees, that every Apprentice, on arriving at twenty-one years of age, who shall produce to the association, a certificate from the person with whom he hath served his apprenticeship, that he has behaved with fidelity and attention, and has not violated any agreement made with him,—it shall be the duty of the president and trustees to direct that the applicant be furnished with a certificate, sealed with the seal of the association, signed

by the president and vice-president, and attested by the secretary. Which certificate shall be in the following terms :—

*Massachusetts Mechanic Association.*

To all who shall see these Presents, Greeting.

Whereas ——, of ——, hath presented to us the certificate of ——, of ——, setting forth that the said —— hath duly discharged the duties and fulfilled his engagements, as a faithful apprentice; and that he recommends him as worthy the countenance of the association: Therefore,

We, the President and Vice-President, in behalf of said association, do grant him this certificate of our approbation; and do recommend him to the notice, encouragement, protection, and patronage of all persons, in all countries, where he may sojourn.

In testimony whereof, we have caused the seal of our association to be attached to these presents, and signed the same, this —— day of ——, in the year of our Lord ——, and in the —— year of our institution.

—— —— *President.*

—— —— *Vice-President.*

Attest,

—— —— *Secretary.*

§ 2. Every person, obtaining this certificate, shall pay One dollar to the secretary,—Twenty-five cents of which shall be the fee of the Secretary.

§ 3. There shall be a general Standard for the association, to be borne in general processions; it shall be in the care of the president.

§ 4. In all processions, the mechanic and manufacturing interests shall be marshaled by crafts, alphabetically arranged.

CONCLUSION.

As this association is formed for the sole purposes of promoting the mechanic arts and extending the practice of benevolence, the introduction of political or religious disputes or questions shall always be considered as deviations from order, and as inconsistent with our laudable institution.

The following list embraces the names of all the original members, so far as they can be ascertained from the records, and from tradition;—that is, all who are known, or supposed, to have had any agency in forming the association, or who signed the constitution previous to the admission of members by ballot:—

Paul Revere, Goldsmith.
Samuel Sellon, Farrier.
Benjamin Callender, Tailor.
Edward Tuckerman, Baker.
Jonathan Balch, Pump and Block-maker.
Richard Faxon, Blacksmith.
Samuel Gore,† Painter.
Stephen Gore, Currier.
Edmund Hartt,† Shipwright.
Benjamin Russell, Printer.
John Wyer,† Rigger.
Jonathan Hunewell, Bricklayer.
Ozias Morse,† Cordwainer.
Henry Purkitt, Cooper.
Eben. Larkin, Bookbinder.
Isaac P. Davis,† Ropemaker.
William Leach,† Saddler.
Daniel Messinger, Hatter.
William Woods,† Baker.
William Todd,† Housewright.
John Cornish,† Tailor.
Humphrey Clark, Tailor.
John W. Folsom,† Printer.
Jonathan Kilton, Baker.
Amos Lincoln,† Housewright.
David West, Bookseller.
James Phillips, Ropemaker.
Samuel Abbott,† Cooper.
George Weller, Tailor.
Thomas Howe,† Turner.
Job Wheelwright, Cooper.
Jedidiah Lincoln,† Housewright.
Moses Thayer, Tailor.
Peter Cade, Ropemaker.
James Eunson, Cooper.
Josiah Fowle, Hairdresser.
John Stutson,† Housewright.
Braddock Loring,† Housewright.
Elkanah Cushman,† Hairdresser.
Samuel J. Tuck,† Windsor Chair-maker and Paint-seller.
John G. Scholtz,† Furrier.
Paul Revere, jun.† Goldsmith.
Zechariah Hicks, Saddler.
William Andrews, Bookbinder.
Andrew Floyd,† Housewright.
John Cotton, Painter.
Thomas S. Boardman,† Hatter.
William Williams,† Hatter.
William Jepson,† Housewright.
Joseph Tucker,† Housewright.
Henry Messinger,† Hatter.
Wm. Alexander,† Cabinet-maker.
Peter McIntosh, Blacksmith.
Richard Caswell, Ropemaker.
William Tyler,† Ropemaker.
Gershom Spear, Cooper.
Mamey Mason, Baker.
William Stephens,† Carpenter.
Solomon Cotton, Blacksmith.
Thomas Patten, Blacksmith.
William Heath, Sailmaker.
Levi Hearsey, Cordwainer.
Wm. C. Hunneman,† Coppersmith.
Ezra Parmenter, Blacksmith.
Thomas Hearsey, Housewright.
Oliver Wiswall, Housewright.
Michael Homer,† Mason.
Josiah Snelling,† Baker.
Peter Smink, Silk-dyer.
Samuel Perkins, Painter.
John Denton, Blacksmith.
William Whall, Whitesmith.
Oliver Johonnot, Tailor.
John McFarlane,† Watchmaker.
Jonathan Wheeler, Bricklayer.
Henry Blaney,† Bricklayer.
John Wells,† Coppersmith.
Thomas Clement,† Housewright.
Giles Richards,† Cotton and Woolen Card-maker.
Samuel Bangs,† Cordwainer.
Nathaniel Balch,† Hatter.
Ephraim Thayer, Engine-builder.
Lemuel Gardner, Cooper.

The persons, to whose names this mark (†) is attached, withdrew from the association, or had ceased to be members before the time of their decease.

The earliest existing record begins as follows:—

BOSTON MECHANIC ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of the society at Concert Hall, April 8, 1795—

Proceeded to the choice of a secretary, when, the votes being counted, it appeared that Mr. John W. Folsom was unanimously chosen—and accepted.

The record proceeds to say it was "*Voted*, That the choice of officers be postponed to next Thursday evening;—that the book containing the articles of the society be kept open for signing at the bookstore of the secretary until Thursday evening;—that the secretary send a notification to each member of the society, who shall have signed the rules and articles, of the time and place of meeting, and business of the society, at least one day previous to the above-said time of choice;—and that Mr. Ebenezer Larkin be empowered to pay into the hands of the secretary, the moneys he has in his possession belonging to the association, taking his receipt therefor." The meeting was then adjourned to Thursday evening, the 16th of the same month.

At the adjourned meeting, April 16, the members proceeded to elect the officers provided for in the constitution. The whole number of ballots was eighty-five; which was two more than the whole number that had signed the constitution. On the first ballot Edward Tuckerman was chosen president, and, being present, "*declined accepting that office.*" Another ballot for president was taken, and PAUL REVERE was unanimously chosen. EDWARD TUCKERMAN was then unanimously elected vice-president, and SAMUEL GORE treasurer. N. Balch,* Richard Faxon, Edmund Hartt, Benjamin Russell, T. Clement,* S. Bangs,* Benjamin Callender, Stephen Gore, and Giles Richards,* were chosen trustees. Mr. Balch, being pres-

* Neither of these names appears among the signatures to the constitution, until after those of many others who were admitted by ballot at subsequent meetings. Consequently they were not, constitutionally, members, when chosen to office. I do not find the signatures of Balch, Clement, or Bangs, attached to the constitution in any place. Balch, it is presumed never considered himself a member. His name does not appear in any future record.

ent, declined serving, and Jonathan Hunewell was chosen in his stead.

A vote was passed, requesting "the board of trustees to have the constitution of the associated mechanics printed, together with a list of the members, whose names are annexed thereto."

It was also voted, "as a primary regulation, that, this society, being formed for the sole purpose of promoting the mechanic arts, and advancing the happiness of the associates, as mechanics and men, will not, in their associate capacity, permit, in their meetings, any debate or conversation upon any political subject whatever, unless wherein they may be essentially interested as mechanics."

The board of trustees was requested to take the earliest opportunity to present to the next session of the General Court of the commonwealth, a "petition in behalf of the associated mechanics of the town of Boston, praying for an act of incorporation."

The meeting was then adjourned to the second Thursday in June.

In the mean time, the government held meetings, agreeably to the provisions of the constitution. The times and places for their future meetings were fixed and recorded; after which it was voted, "that, as punctuality is necessary to effect the purposes of this institution, every member of the board of trustees, who shall neglect to attend at the stated meetings of this board, after having been previously notified, shall pay into the hands of the secretary a fine of One shilling and six pence, which shall be appropriated to the use of the society."

Paul Revere, Benjamin Russell, and Edward Tuckerman were appointed a committee to prepare the petition for an act of incorporation. They were also requested, by a vote, "to draw up a comprehensive address on the subject of this institution, requesting the aid of the mercantile part of the community in forwarding the same; and as soon as the constitution shall be printed, the secretary be directed to enclose

one copy, in behalf of this board, to twenty of the principal merchants of the town of Boston."

The merchants, whose names follow, were designated as those to whom the constitution should be sent:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Thomas Russell, | Joseph Coolidge, |
| John Coffin Jones, | Samuel Eliot, |
| Stephen Higginson, | Samuel Brown, |
| John Codman, | James Tisdale, |
| Ebenezer Parsons, | Thomas Amory, jun. |
| Jeffrey & Russell, | William Little, |
| Nathaniel Fellowes, | David Sears, |
| Daniel Sargeant, | Joseph Blake, |
| Theodore Lyman, | Joseph May, |
| Parkman & Blake, | William Smith. |

In conformity to his instructions, the secretary transmitted to each of these merchants, a letter, of which the following is a copy:—

*Boston, 5th May*, 1795.

SIR,—I am directed by the board of trustees of the associated mechanics of the town of Boston, to present you with a copy of their constitution, and to request you, as far as you deem it consistent, to patronize an institution formed for the reciprocal benefits of the merchant and mechanic.

With respect, I am, Sir, your very humble servant,

——— ——— *Secretary.*

The secretary having exhibited certain demands against the association, the government voted, "that the accounts presented and read by the secretary, amounting to Twenty pounds and six pence, being the expenses which have arisen in organizing the society of associated mechanics, be paid, and that the secretary be directed to assess each individual member the sum of Three shillings, to be appropriated accordingly."

The committee appointed to prepare a petition to the General Court, reported a draft, which, after some slight amendments, was adopted, as follows:—

To the Honorable the Senate and the Honorable the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Petition of the subscribers, Trustees of the Mechanic Association of the town of Boston, respectfully sheweth,

That the society having, for a series of years, experienced great inconveniences from the disconnected state of the mechanics of the town of Boston, which has, in a great measure, retarded the mechanic arts in a state, the freedom and liberality of whose constitution, and its situation as a manufacturing country, promised their greatest extension,—they have associated themselves to remedy those inconveniences; and the subscribers, in their behalf, respectfully solicit of the General Court of Massachusetts an act of incorporation, thereby fully to extend and perpetuate the benefits of their institution—the principles of which may be found in the constitution they have adopted—which they request the Honorable Court to take into their wise consideration, well persuaded it will be found to combine the interests of the community at large with that of the present petitioners,—who, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition was signed by every member of the board of trustees; and Messrs. Revere, Tuckerman, Gore, Russell, and Folsom were directed to present it to the Legislature. The committee was also instructed to present a printed copy of the constitution to each of the Boston representatives, and to send twenty copies to the Legislature for the use of the members of the two branches.

June 2. Quarterly meeting of the Association. The eighth section of the "general regulations" was slightly amended, and the "tenth section of the same article" was expunged.* The following candidates for membership, having been previously approved by the government, were balloted for and admitted:—

Richard Hunewell, Mason.
William Greenough, Printer.
John Bray, Cooper.
Shubael Bell, Carpenter.
Daniel Tuttle, Mason.
William Daley, Baker.
Charles Moore, Carpenter.
Samuel Todd, Carpenter.
Thomas Christie, Housewright.
David Cobb, Blacksmith.
John Russell, Printer.
Jacob Porter, Tailor.
Samuel Emmons, Ropemaker.
Samuel Smith, Baker.
Edward Edes, Baker.
John Jenkins, Baker.
Phillip Hitchborn, Cooper.

* This refers, it is presumed, to some "General Regulations," which have not been preserved, and not to any portion of the constitution.

September 10. Quarterly meeting. The secretary was directed to send printed notifications of all future meetings to all the members.

"*Voted*, That the secretary be directed to receive from each individual, that may become a member of this society, the sum of Three shillings, or Fifty cents, in addition to his subscription, agreeable to a like sum assessed the former members of the society to defray the necessary expense in organizing and establishing the same."

"*Voted*, That the public festival, pointed out in the constitution to be held annually, be postponed the present year."

December 10. Annual meeting. The committee of the government, appointed for that purpose, made a report on the accounts of the treasurer and secretary; from which it appeared that the secretary had received Two hundred and eleven dollars,—Two hundred of which he had paid over to the treasurer, retaining the remainder in his hands;—that the treasurer had paid, on orders passed by the board of trustees, Sixty-seven dollars and twenty-five cents,—and had on hand One hundred and thirty-two dollars and seventy-five cents;—and that there appeared to be due from the members, including the assessment for the current month, One hundred and twelve dollars and seventy-five cents;—and that there were outstanding bills against the association amounting to Seventeen dollars and seventy-five cents.

The following candidates, having passed the investigation and received the approval of the government, were admitted as members:—

| | |
|---|---|
| John Howe, jun. Housewright. | Thomas Tannatt, Baker. |
| Thomas Gibson, Saddler. | Aaron Willard, Clock-maker. |
| Jacob Emmons, Baker. | Zeba Thayer, Blacksmith. |

The officers for the year ensuing were elected, as follows:—

Paul Revere, *President*. Samuel Gore, *Treasurer*.
Edward Tuckerman, *Vice-President*. John W. Folsom, *Secretary*.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Richard Faxon, | Benjamin Russell, | Giles Richards, |
| Thomas Clement, | Edmund Hartt, | Jonathan Hunewell, |
| Stephen Gore, | Benjamin Callender, | Samuel Emmons, |

*Trustees.*

It was voted, "That the board of trustees be requested to present the petition in behalf of the Associated Mechanics to the next session of the General Court; and that they alter the appellation of the society, and, in stead thereof it be styled '*The Association of Mechanics of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*'"

Here ends an abstract of the recorded and traditionary proceedings of the association during the first year of its constitutional existence. It was a small beginning. A strange and unaccountable prejudice against it pervaded the community. Some of the merchants,—men of influence in their profession and in society generally,—opposed it with a degree of asperity, which it is now difficult to understand or to appreciate. The only cause, which tradition assigns for the hostility, was an apprehension that it was a combination to extort extravagant prices for labor, and to impose conditions and restrictions, that might essentially injure the interests of mechanics who were not members of the institution.

A practice was early introduced, at the monthly meetings of the trustees, of having a supper, after the business of the meeting was completed. These social entertainments were given at the expense of the members themselves. At first, they were of a simple character, and were partaken of only by the members of the government. Soon, however, they began to assume a tone of conviviality, and gentlemen without the pale of the association were invited, till, at length, the guests frequently outnumbered the trustees. This practice gave dissatisfaction to some, who thought they could not afford the expense of such an entertainment as was sometimes provided, when governors, judges, and the higher class of military officers, were among the guests. In later years, worthy and talented members of the association declined serving as trustees, for no other reason than that their circumstances did not admit of a display equal to that of some of their cotemporaries. There is no doubt, however, that the practice had some effect in rendering the institution popular, and had influence in securing for it a legal existence.

## APPENDIX TO 1795.

Of the eighty-three persons, supposed to have been original members, forty voluntarily seceded from the association, or forfeited their membership by neglecting to comply with the requisitions of the constitution, in the course of a few years. Not more than three of the whole number are now (April, 1853) known to be living. One of them, Isaac P. Davis, carried on, extensively, the manufacture of cables and cordage, in ropewalks on the westerly side of Charles-street,—which were destroyed by fire in 1818,—on ground since occupied as a public garden. Mr. Davis is still living, though not now a member of the association, and may be seen almost any day in State-street—an agreeable and healthy octogenarian. Samuel Abbott, long known as a leading man among the coopers, withdrew from the association many years ago, and removed to Leominster, in the county of Worcester, where he is living in easy circumstances. William C. Hunneman, coppersmith, lives in Roxbury. He took up his connection with the association many years ago.

Paul Revere, whose name stands at the head of this list, was born in Boston, in December, 1734, O. S. (January 1, 1735;) and died there in May, 1818, at the age of eighty-four. His ancestors were Huguenots and wrote their name Rivoire. His grandfather emigrated from St. Foy in France to the island of Guernsey, and his father, at the age of thirteen, was sent by his friends from that island to Boston, to learn the trade of a goldsmith, where he married and had several children, of which Paul was the eldest. Like most of the Huguenots, who emigrated to this country, the elder Revere was very industrious, and very austere in his religious opinions. To the great affliction of the pious and conscientious father, Paul attended public worship with the congregation of the Rev. Dr. Mayhew. He was brought up by his father to the business of a goldsmith, and made himself very serviceable in the use of the graver. Having a taste for drawing, he

made it his peculiar business to design and execute all the engravings on the various articles of silver ware, which were then manufactured in New England.

In 1756, soon after Revere became of age, an expedition was organized against Crown Point, then in possession of the French. In this expedition he received the appointment of lieutenant of artillery, and was stationed at Fort Edward on Lake George, the greater part of that year. After his return to Boston, he married, and commenced business as a goldsmith, which, with engraving and other mechanical and manufacturing arts, were objects of industry and study, from time to time, during a long and active life. He had great fondness for *mechanics*, as a science, and early made himself acquainted with many of the most important principles, studying them with intense delight. Engraving on copper was an art in which he was self-instructed. One of his earliest engravings of this description was a portrait of his friend, the Rev. Dr. Mayhew. In 1766, he engraved a picture, emblematical of the repeal of the Stamp Act; and, in 1768, a very popular caricature of the "Seventeen Rescinders.* In 1770, he pub-

* As there are probably very few copies of this print in existence, the following description of it will be a novelty to many readers, and may be acceptable to all:— In the beginning of the year 1768, when the measures of the British government were assuming more and more of a threatening aspect, the House of Representatives of Massachusetts voted to send a circular to the legislatures of the several provinces, upon the alarming state of affairs with the mother country. This measure gave so much offence to the King, that he sent out orders to Governor Bernard, to demand, peremptorily, that the vote should be rescinded and obliterated. The demand being judged unreasonable, after debate, a vote was passed *not* to conform to it; — *seventeen* members only voting *for it*, and *ninety-two against it*. These members became notorious in a political application; — *seventeen* being called the Tory number, and the "*glorious ninety-two*," as it was called, indicated that of the Whigs. The seventeen members were branded with the name of *Rescinders*, and were treated in the most contemptuous manner. Revere's caricature helped to increase the odium. It was entitled, "A WARM PLACE — HELL!" The picture represented a pair of monstrous open jaws, resembling those of a shark, with flames issuing from them, and the Devil, with a large pitchfork, driving the Seventeen Rescinders into the flames, exclaiming "Now I've got you — a fine haul, by Jove!" As a reluctance to enter is shown by the foremost man, another devil flies towards him with a fork, crying out, "Push on, Tim!" (referring to Timothy Ruggles, familiarly known as Brigadier Ruggles, of Worcester county, a leader of the Tory party.) Over the upper jaw was seen, in the back ground, the cupola of the Province House, which was the governor's residence, with the Indian bow and arrow, the arms of the province.

lished an engraved print, representing the Massacre in King-street (now State-street) on the memorable Fifth of March; and, in 1774, another of a historical character, representing the landing of the British troops in Boston. Copies of all these works are still extant, though extremely rare. In 1775, he engraved the plates, made the press, and printed the bills, of the paper money which was ordered by the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, then in session at Watertown. He was sent by this Congress to Philadelphia, to obtain information respecting the manufacture of gunpowder. The only powder-mill then in the colonies was in the vicinity of Philadelphia. The proprietor refused to let Revere take any drawing or specification whatever, or any memorandum of the process of the manufacture, but permitted him to see the mill in full operation. With the slight information thus obtained, he was able, on his return, to construct a mill, which was soon put in operation with complete success.

During the whole of the struggle for independence, Revere felt like a true American and acted like a worthy son of a Huguenot. He was several times sent by the Provincial to the Continental Congress, on confidential business. He was one of the persons who planned and executed one of the most daring projects which characterized the times, — the destruction of the Tea in Boston harbor, — an event, which has never yet been so copiously described nor so elaborately considered in its effects, as it deserves, by the philosophical historian. He was one of a club of young men, chiefly mechanics, who

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A copy of this print was shown to Mr. Revere, when he was about eighty years old. He said he had not seen it for many years, — was pleased to know that one was still in existence, — and offered to buy it. He said he was a young man, zealous in the cause of liberty, when he sketched it, and had forgotten many of the circumstances; but *this* he did remember, that while he was doing it, the famous [?] Doctor Church came into his shop, and, seeing what he was about, took a pen and wrote the following lines, which he recited from memory, as an accompaniment :—

"On, brave Rescinders! to yon yawning cell!
Seventeen such miscreants there will startle hell;
There puny *Villains*, damned for petty sin,
On such distinguished *Scoundrels* gaze and grin;
The out-done *Devil* will resign his sway;
He never curst his millions in a day."

associated for the purpose of watching the movements of the British troops in Boston, and acted an important part in the events which occurred about the nineteenth of April, 1775. In relation to this point, he wrote a letter to the corresponding secretary of the Massachusetts Historical Society, in reply to some inquiries from that officer, — which may be found in the collections of that society.

After the British evacuated Boston, a regiment of artillery was raised for the defence of the state. In this regiment, Revere was appointed a major, and afterwards a lieutenant-colonel, and remained in the service till the close of the war. During all this period, he might be said to hold the sword in one hand and the implements of mechanical trades in the other, and all of them subservient to the great cause of American liberty. Whenever any thing new or ingenious in the mechanical line was wanted for the public service, the public looked to him for the consummation of the design. After the peace of 1783, he resumed his business as a goldsmith. At a later period he erected an air-furnace, in which he cast brass cannon and church bells. A new era commenced in ship-building; and his attention was turned to the manufacture of copper bolts and spikes to be used in the sheathing of vessels; and for this purpose he erected extensive works at Canton, about fifteen miles from Boston, where the rolling of copper and the casting of guns and bells were carried on. The same business is still continued at this place by his successors, — an incorporated company, bearing his name.

In 1788, the mechanics of Boston were much excited in favor of the Constitution of the United States, and held numerous meetings at the Green Dragon tavern. Mr. Revere presided at these meetings; and when it had been agreed that the mechanics should present, in a body, certain resolutions in favor of its ratification, to the Convention, which was then deliberating upon it, at the meeting-house in Federal-street, he marched at the head of the procession. At the time of his death, he was connected with many of the benevolent and useful institutions, which dignify and embellish the metropolis of Massachusetts, in all of which he was an active

and munificent member. By an uncommonly long life of industry and economy, he was able to obtain a competency in regard to property, and to educate a large family of children, many of whom are living to enjoy the contemplation of the character of an upright, patriotic, and virtuous father.*

Samuel Sellon, the second person who affixed his name to the constitution, was a native of England, and was engaged in mercantile pursuits before he came to America. He was not bred to any mechanical trade, but when he settled in Boston, he took up the business of a farrier, which he carried on some years, in connection with other branches of the trade of a blacksmith. His shop was in Bromfield-street, on the spot now occupied by Washingtonian hall, and his dwelling-house was on the opposite side of the street. He was the owner of both these estates. He was shrewd, intelligent, and upright; and, with a considerable property, made by industry and economy, he removed to Weston in the county of Middlesex, where he died about fifty years ago, — leaving no son, but three daughters, all of whom were respectably married, and have descendants now living in Boston. Mr. Sellon was respectably connected in England. One of his near relatives, of the same name, was a judge of one of the courts in 1815.

Benjamin Callender, son of Ebenezer Callender, was born in Boston, in 1745, and died there, March 10, 1828, aged eighty-three. He served a regular apprenticeship with a tailor by the name of Copeland. He married and began business in Boston about the year 1770, but left the town with his family and lived at Natick during the Siege. He returned to Boston soon after the Evacuation. The life of a mechanic, who minds his own business, and whose principal aim is to maintain an honest reputation for integrity and industry in the society of which he is a member, affords but little material for a biographical notice; but the silent influence of the example of such a man is more to be valued than all that can usually be derived from the history of the bustling war-

* See New-England Magazine, published by J. T. Buckingham, Boston, October, 1832.

fare for distinction and wealth. Mr. Callender's long life was marked by no incident of (what the newspapers call) "thrilling interest." With modest and conscientious regularity, with a resolution that never violated the laws of honor and uprightness in trade, and with a devotion to economy and temperance that never offended against the requirements of benevolence or the severest rules of sobriety, he "kept the noiseless tenor of his way," till the *best* part of the population of the town became his customers. No one went dissatisfied from his place of business, for no customer left it without getting his money's worth. That place was in State-street, on the south side, two or three doors below the corner of Washington-street. Though few persons may now be living who can remember the sign of *Benjamin Callender*, yet there must be many to whom that of *Callender & Jenkins* was once familiar. Having acquired a comfortable independence, Mr. Callender withdrew from the business some years before his death. He had five sons and three daughters, to all of whom he gave the best education that the public schools could supply; but that which was better, — the enduring principle of virtue and honor, — was communicated to them around the domestic altar. In the early part of his life, Mr. Callender was a devoted admirer and a performer of sacred music, and for a number of years was the leader of the choir of the Brattle-square church, — a position which he relinquished on account of a deafness that disqualified him in a great measure from the service. He was a member of that church at the time of his decease.

Edward Tuckerman was a native of Boston, and was born December 27, 1740. He served an apprenticeship with William Harris, a baker, whose daughter he afterwards married. He was not born to a large inheritance, but industry and economy enabled him to accumulate an independent fortune. Beyond the fact stated above, the compiler is in possession of no information concerning his early life. He carried on the business of a baker, at the "South End" for about fifty years; and as he had no ambition for public notoriety, it is not known that he ever neglected the duties of his useful and

honorable calling to fulfil those of a higher order than that of one of the selectmen of the town. He died in 1818, in the 78th year of his age. His conduct through life is believed to have been unimpeachable, and the records of our association attest the deep regard which was felt for his character and services. The business of an extensive bakery, from which bread is daily distributed, on credit, to a promiscuous population, must, almost necessarily, subject the proprietor to losses, which, in the yearly aggregate, amount to serious diminutions of an expected income. Some years before Mr. Tuckerman relinquished business, he called together his delinquent customers on a New Year's day, and gave up his claim to every one, who acknowledged his inability to pay; and this generous system he continued to practice as long as he continued in business, — thus exemplifying the doctrine of scripture, that the good man, who showeth favor to the poor and lendeth, shall be had in honorable remembrance.

Jonathan Balch was the proprietor of a large establishment, as pump and block-maker, at the head of Balch's wharf, at the north part of the town. For a long time he stood at the head of all that followed the same business. He was a man of considerable wealth, and (what was rare for a mechanic of those days) owned and occasionally occupied a mansion-house and garden in the country.* He was one of the most substantial of the early members, and maintained through life a character for honesty and integrity. He lived liberally, and contributed much to the elevation and standing of the mechanics by his promptness in business and gentlemanly deportment.

Richard Faxon. This gentleman was born in Braintree, in 1746. His father was a farmer in that town, and gave him such an education as the times and circumstances then afforded. He was with the patriot army during the whole of the Revolutionary war, and held a commission, of a lieutenant, or a captain. He was with that portion of the army, which, under the immediate command of General Washington, ef-

* This estate was in Dorchester, and is now owned by Marshall P. Wilder, Esq.

fected a perilous march through New-Jersey in the winter of 1776. After the war he settled in Boston and carried on an extensive business in the making of edge tools, and so great was his reputation in this department of manufacture, that hardly a farmer or carpenter in New-England, thought his working utensils sufficient for his operations without one or more of *Faxon's Axes.* When he was enjoying the full tide of success in this business, he found that he was worth thirty thousand dollars. This, he said, was enough, for him, or any man, and he did not wish for more. He accordingly relinquished the manufacture of axes, and all connection with the business and purchased a small farm in Roxbury, but continued to live in Boston. The dwelling-house on this farm and a portion of the ground he sold, but retained a few acres, which he cultivated as a source of employment and a means of relaxation and amusement. In the proper season, he was almost daily noticed, with his horse and wagon, proceeding from his residence to this scene of pleasant labor. He carried his dinner, or luncheon, with him, and returned towards evening with such vegetables and fruits as his ground produced, all which he shared with his friends and neighbors, — adhering to his maxim, that he had enough, and would make no further gain by selling the produce of his labor, or rather his recreation. He was several times elected a representative to the legislature, and enjoyed to an unlimited extent the confidence of all his fellow-townsmen. Unless prevented by unavoidable circumstances, Mr. Faxon was never absent from the public preaching of the Rev. John Murray, of whose church he was a deacon. He died in 1821, leaving the world with a character of unspotted purity, of conscientious piety, and universal love and good will to mankind.

Samuel Gore was born in Boston, (in January, O. S.) February 6, 1751. His father was John Gore, a painter by trade, who kept a shop and lived in a dwelling-house, more than fifty years, in Court-street, at the head of a narrow passage-way leading from Court-street to Brattle-square, called Gore's alley. This passage-way, in the progress of public improvements, has been widened, undergone other essential

changes, and is now called Brattle-street. Samuel, the son, learned his trade of his father, and succeeded him in the occupation of the shop already mentioned. The father was a Tory, and signed the famous address to Gen. Gage. He left Boston and went to Halifax with the British troops, in 1776, and his name is found among the list of the proscribed and banished in 1778. The son was a Whig, and active in all the measures of opposition to the British government. He was one of the mechanics, who seized, secured, and sent out of Boston, during the siege, the two celebrated guns the "Hancock" and "Adams,"—said to be the only two cannon then in the country, except those in possession of the British. He was also one of those, who, on the sixteenth of December, 1773, proceeded to the Tea ships and assisted in throwing the cargoes into the dock. Mr. Gore was one of the company which established the glass works in Essex-street—a speculation in which, unfortunately, he lost a large property, the accumulation of many years of untiring industry. He died in Boston, November 16, 1831, aged eighty years and nine months. He was the first treasurer of the association; was a valued and influential member; but withdrew from it, about the time of the failure of the glass company. He was an elder brother of Christopher Gore, who was some time governor of Massachusetts.

Stephen Gore was a native of Roxbury. His ancestors were among the early settlers of that town. It is presumed that he learned his trade in Roxbury, but he followed it in Boston, at the South End, near the entrance to Pleasant-street. He died in the year 1811.

Edmund Hartt was one of the most celebrated ship-builders in Massachusetts, and built the United States frigate Constitution, in 1797. "Hartt's ship-yard" was, for many years, a point of attraction to strangers visiting Boston and curious to see the industrial operations of her mechanics. He was not a member at his decease.

Benjamin Russell was born in Boston, in the month of September, 1761. His father was John Russell, a mason by trade, and died in 1778, when Benjamin was seventeen years

old. Like most of the Boston mechanics, he was a graduate of the public school. In August, 1775, he was apprenticed to Isaiah Thomas, of Worcester, publisher of the Massachusetts Spy. He was full of the spirit of revolution, and often wrote paragraphs for the Spy, which were inserted, before Mr. Thomas was aware of the authorship. In 1780, Thomas was *drafted* as a continental soldier, and was obliged either to join the army or procure a substitute. Russell was ambitious of distinction, and volunteered to take the place of his employer. He joined the army at West-Point, and was present, as one of the guard, at the execution of Major Andre. When the time for which he was enlisted expired he returned to Worcester. He was then about twenty years old, and insisted upon being released from his indenture, which he contended was no more than a fair consideration for his having served in the army as a substitute for Thomas. His claim was allowed, but not without reluctance. In March, 1784, in connection with William Warden, he began, in Boston, the publication of the Massachusetts Centinel. By the death of his partner the next year, he became the sole proprietor and editor of the paper, the name of which was afterward changed to Columbian Centinel. He continued the publication of the Centinel, as editor and proprietor, till November, 1828, when he retired from all connection with the Press. Of Mr. Russell's connection with the association and other public affairs, further notice will be taken in the progress of these Annals.

Jonathan Hunewell was the son of Richard Hunewell, with whom he served an apprenticeship as a mason. This trade he followed in the early part of his manhood, and, in the practice of it laid the foundation of the respectability, wealth, and influence which he afterwards enjoyed. He succeeded Paul Revere, as president of the association, in 1800, and served in that capacity nine years, when he retired to give place to his early and intimate friend, Benjamin Russell. He was several times elected by his fellow-citizens of Boston to represent them in the legislature, and was two or three times a senator for the county of Suffolk. He was also repeatedly elected one of the selectmen of the town. For a

number of years he resided, during the summer, at a country seat in Newton. There are probably many persons still living, who remember the splendid entertainments, of which, as members of the legislature, they partook at that hospitable mansion. His guests were numerous, were always received with gentlemanly frankness, and departed with regret. Mr. Hunewell was a member of various benevolent institutions, and his name may be found on many records as a munificent benefactor. In the days of his prosperity, he was liberal and generous to individuals as well as to public institutions, and many a deed of kindness, that was never known to the world, has been recorded on the tablet of grateful hearts. But alas! chance and change happen to all men, and Mr. Hunewell was not an exception to the common lot. He was one of the principal agents in the establishment of the glass manufactory in Boston and Chelmsford. About the year 1822, (whether from misfortune or mismanagement, it is now needless to inquire,) the speculation failed, and Mr. Hunewell, being a stockholder and director, was deeply involved in the embarrassment. From that time he withdrew from public life, and from the public resort of men of business. He lived in retirement, almost in seclusion, at Roxbury, on the estate of a lady, who was his fourth wife. This lady died before Mr. Hunewell, and left him, by will, an annuity, sufficient to support his age in comfortable independence. From this home he seldom strayed beyond the limits of the garden, and there, receiving the visits of a few friends of his earlier years, he was happier, apparently, than when surrounded by the luxuries of wealth and engrossed by the cares and anxieties attendant upon an active career of business and speculation. He died in April, 1842, having almost completed his eighty-third year. He was accustomed, while reviewing the events of his early life, to state the fact that he "was free," or was "twenty-one, on the *dark day*" — a day which was formerly noted as "remarkable," in most of the New-England almanacks. This remarkable day was the nineteenth of May, 1780. Consequently, if Mr. Hunewell had lived a few weeks longer he would have filled the measure of eighty-three years.

Henry Purkitt was a native of Boston, received such an education as could be obtained at the public schools, and served an apprenticeship to the business of a cooper. His master was one of the daring "sons of liberty" who rendered their names and characters immortal by the destruction of the Tea in Boston harbor, on the sixteenth of December, 1773. Purkitt was then the youngest apprentice, and, with his fellow-apprentices, had been strictly commanded to confine himself at home during the evening. But, judging from "notes of preparation" they had observed during the day, that some important transaction was about to take place, they disobeyed the injunctions of the master, and joined the crowd of spectators, who were witnesses of that cool and solemnly-deliberated act. Mr. Purkitt enlisted as a soldier in the war of the Revolution, and continued in the army till the war terminated. He was in the battles at Trenton and Brandywine. After the war he began business as a cooper, and carried it on, prosperously, for many years. From the governor of the commonwealth he held the office of inspector of pickled fish, the duties of which he performed with distinguished ability. His affection for military associations did not forsake him till after the meridian of life, and he filled all the subordinate stations in the cavalry of the state, till he was elected a colonel. In our association he held the office of a trustee, but steadily declined to be a candidate for the presidency. He was always active in promoting the interest of the institution; in truth, he was proud to be numbered among the mechanics of the city, and was never weary in exertions to promote the welfare and elevate the character of that class of society. Uprightness and exactness were prominent attributes of his character, and universal love, and charity for all mankind, were sincerely exhibited in all his social intercourse. He was a distinguished member of the brotherhood of Freemasons, and lived in the conscientious discharge of all its obligations. He had troops of friends, but it is not known that he ever had an enemy. During his long life he enjoyed almost uninterrupted good health, the effect of regular and temperate habits, and had no personal experience of painful

sickness. For a few years before his death he kept chiefly at home, for the loco-motive powers grew feeble, "the strong men bowed themselves," and walking in the crowded streets of the city was dangerous to the aged. At length the "silver cord was loosed," the "golden bowl was broken." He died the beginning of March, 1846. Had he lived till the eighteenth of the month, he would have finished an age of ninety-one years — leaving his mortal for immortal associates, and exchanging, as it is pleasant to believe, the fleeting and uncertain friendships of time for the imperishable enjoyments of eternity. The writer was associated with Mr. Purkitt in this institution thirty-seven years, and always esteemed such fellowship a blessed privilege.

Ebenezer Larkin was the son of Ebenezer Larkin of Charlestown, and was the fourth in numerical order of seventeen children. His father dying when many of this numerous family were quite young, he was looked to as a parent, and was an excellent son to a widowed mother. He was educated at the public schools in Charlestown. Soon after he was twenty-one he opened a bookstore and carried on the business of a bookbinder, to which business he had served a regular apprenticeship, at No. 47 Cornhill, now Washington-street, near the alley which connects that great thoroughfare with Brattle-street. He died in Boston, in 1812, aged 42. He was universally respected for the virtues of uprightness and benevolence, and his society was sought and admired for its characteristic pleasantness and good humor.

Daniel Messinger was born in Wrentham, in the county of Norfolk, on the seventeenth of June, 1768. He was the third in order of twelve children of Daniel and Mary Messinger. His father, a farmer, was the tenth of twelve children of the Rev. Henry Messinger, who was the second minister of the Congregational church in Wrentham.* His ancestors were all of the old puritanic orthodox stamp, — his mother be-

* This gentleman wrote an account of the revivals in his church during the excitement produced in the New-England churches by the renowned Rev. George Whitefield, which was published in a book entitled *The Great Awakening*.

ing a descendant of the Rev. Samuel Mann, the first minister settled in Wrentham.* The subject of this notice remained with his father, employed on the farm, till his fourteenth year, when he was placed with his uncle, David Brastow, in his native town, to learn the trade of a hatter. His first view of Boston, as he has often been heard to relate, was on the occasion of his being sent there, during the first year of his apprenticeship, to purchase a bag of wool and a pound of snuff. Being dressed in a green baize jacket and a pair of leather breeches, and the bag of wool being fastened on the horse behind him, the uncouthness of his appearance, on his return through Roxbury, excited, at his expense, some boisterous merriment among the boys. His uncle being unsuccessful in business, in his sixteenth year he was sent to Boston, and apprenticed to Nathaniel Balch,† hatter, No. 72 Cornhill, (now Washington-street,) opposite the head of Water-street. Shortly after he was of age he commenced business in Newbury-street, (now Washington,) near the celebrated Lamb tavern, now the site of the "Adams House." In 1797, by the advice of his friend John Avery, (secretary of the commonwealth,) he purchased the estate No. 15 Newbury-street, corner of Sheafe's lane, — Mr. Avery residing on the opposite corner.‡ His shop for the sale of hats was in the front of the house and his parlor in the rear of it, agreeable to the custom of those days, when mechanics and shopkeepers were more anxious to acquire a competence of property, than to spend

* This venerable lady survived her husband twenty-four years, and died in 1836, in the ninety-fifth year of her age.

† Mr. Balch was one of the wits of his day and generation. In those days, when convivial entertainments were no crime and punch-drinking not discreditable, his residence was frequently visited by Governor Hancock, Mr. Secretary Avery, Rev. Dr. Thacher, Mr. Sheriff Allen, William Cooper, the town-clerk of half a century, and other worthies, who generally timed their visit at eleven o'clock in the morning. Mr. Balch was sure to have something in his parlor in the rear of his shop, for the entertainment of his guests, with whom he was on the most familiar terms. A volume would hardly contain all the anecdotes that have been related of this club, and the practical jokes which Mr. Balch played off for their amusement. The apprentice thus became acquainted with some of the dignitaries of church and state, and appears to have enjoyed their friendly regard in after years.

‡ The price Mr. Messinger paid for this estate was One thousand pounds. It is now 387 Washington-street, and Sheafe's-lane has become Avery-street.

all their earnings in the payment of ruinous rents to enable them to make a show. His shop, where he carried on the manufacture, was still further in the rear. He resided with his family and conducted his business on this estate till 1844. Mr. Messinger was early attached to the military service and was esteemed a good and efficient officer. In 1799 he raised the infantry company called the *Winslow Blues*, (so named in honor of his friend General Winslow,) and was its first commander. Under a new organization of the militia, he was the first major of the light infantry companies. During the war of 1812, he was the senior colonel in the Boston brigade, and was chosen brigadier-general but declined the office. He always felt great interest in the Ancient and Honorable Artillery company, and twice held the office of its commander. His last military parade was on the two hundredth anniversary of that company, when, with his friends of the mechanic association, Russell, Phillips, and Sumner, he marched in the ranks and performed the service of an artillery man. He also held many offices in the municipal and state governments,— was a fireward, a member of the city council, a representative and a senator in the legislature, and a member of the constitutional convention of 1820. When he first became a housekeeper, Mr. Messinger attended the First Baptist church (the Rev. Dr. Stillman's;) afterwards he became a member of the First Church, (Congregational,) where he continued till his death. For many years he was the leader of the choir in that church. He had a fine musical ear, and as fine a voice; and could sound the highest notes on the treble staff with remarkable strength and clearness. He was often invited to sing on public festive occasions, and Faneuil hall has many a time been filled with the melody of his notes. His favorite songs were "Bright Phœbus," and the "Downhill of Life," both of which he sung when he was over seventy years old without any perceptible imperfectness of voice. The song last mentioned he sung, with great feeling, at the latter part of his life, — especially the lines, —

And when I at last must throw off this frail covering,
Which I've worn for three score years and ten,

At the brink of the grave I'll not seek to stand hovering,
Nor my thread wish to spin o'er again.
But my face in the glass I'll serenely survey,
And with smiles count each wrinkle and furrow:
And this old worn out stuff, which is threadbare to-day,
May become everlasting to-morrow.

Mr. Messinger was, by nature, of a very strong constitution. He was never sick till near the close of his life; and his death was hastened by being accidentally injured by an express wagon, while crossing the street. From the effects of this accident he never recovered. It was followed by a sickness of seven months, ending with a severe attack of erysipelas, and then dropsy. A part of this time he was insane, but when, occasionally, his mind was restored, he was perfectly sensible that his life was approaching its termination. He died June 21, 1846, being seventy-eight years and four days old. He was several years trustee and vice-president, and two years president of our association. He was, in politics, a firm, active, and consistent Federalist;—never much of a speculator in the way of business; not fond of innovations; but preferring to do every thing in a safe way. His estate increased in value, so that when he relinquished his ordinary business, the income was sufficient for his support the remainder of his life.*

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* "He was much before the public eye, and appears always to have enjoyed its favor; for he could be relied upon for his calm judgement, his steady determination, his zealous patriotism, his incorruptible integrity. He was usually among those who sit chief in the management of political affairs, unassuming though firm, never overstepping the proprieties of his position, and giving no offence, for it was not in his nature to give any. His character and manners showed a combination by no means usual, at least to the extent to which he displayed them, of courtesy and robustness. These qualities seemed to be stamped upon his very features, that might have looked rough to some, but it was a roughness that set off their kindliness. He was a frank, upright, plain-hearted man; eminently social in his disposition; willing to serve as far as he was able, and possessing an unusual share of that part of the Apostle's praise of charity,—that it is "not easily provoked." He was considerate of others, both by a friendliness that seemed born with him, and by a wise self-command. . . . And since it was appointed to him to contend with so much suffering before he could obtain his discharge of death, we have reason to give thanks that he has no more to endure, but at length finds rest.

'Disturb him not; but let him sweetly take
A long repose;—he hath been long awake.'"

[*Sermon, by the Rev. N. L. Frothingham.*]

Humphrey Clark was born in Topsfield, county of Essex, November 10, 1761. At a suitable age he was apprenticed to J. Lefavour, a tailor in Salem. Some of the early years of his manhood were passed in North-Carolina. He returned and settled in Boston. For many years he carried on the business of a merchant-tailor near the head of State-street, north of the State-house. "He acquired a handsome property by honest industry, but lost it by the fluctuation of affairs, and with it his energy." The latter years of his life were clouded by embarrassments and mortifications, resulting from a failure in business. For a few years he was messenger to the Board of Health — an office which afforded but slender support for a family that had been accustomed to ease and competency, but in the acceptance of which there was no dishonor. He died at Danvers, May 9, 1830.

John W. Folsom, the first secretary of the association, was a printer. In connection with another printer by the name of Draper, he established a newspaper, in 1778, entitled the "Independent Leger and American Advertiser." The partnership was discontinued and Folsom carried on the publication alone till some time in 1783. He had a printing-office and bookstore in Union-street, which were burned in 1797. By this fire he lost most of his property. He was appointed secretary to the Board of Health — an office which he held a number of years. The later years of his life were spent at the westerly part of Boston, — where he exercised the functions of a justice of the peace, deciding the petty quarrels of the somewhat promiscuous population of that section of the town.

Jonathan Kilton was born in Holliston, or Sherborn, in the county of Middlesex, in February, 1755. He served his country three years as a soldier, in the war of the Revolution, after he had served John Lucas, of Boston, several years as an apprentice. He carried on the business of a baker, in Orange-street, (now Washington,) not far from the scene of his apprenticeship, from the close of the war till his death, December 19, 1816. He was always esteemed as an upright and honorable man, and true to all his engagements as a friend and member of the association.

Amos Lincoln was born in Hingham, March 18, 1754. At fourteen, he was apprenticed to a Mr. Crafts, of Boston, with whom he remained about six years. He was present at the destruction of the Tea in Boston harbor in 1773, (being then about nineteen years old,) and assisted in the execution of that intrepid act. It is related that his master, apprehending that he might be out on some perilous enterprize, prayed most earnestly that he might be protected and prospered, and was pleasantly disappointed the next morning when he returned in safety. Before he was twenty-one, Mr. Crafts released him from his obligation as an apprentice, in consequence of his ardent desire to enter the army of his country. He was in the battle of Bunker-Hill, attached to General Stark's regiment. He was in the army from that time till it was disbanded, and was in the actions at Bennington, Brandywine, and Monmouth. Before the close of the war he had a captain's commission, and afterward was one of Governor Hancock's aids. He also aided in suppressing Shays's rebellion. With the return of peace, Mr. Lincoln returned to his business as a carpenter, became one of the first mechanics of the town, and was the master-workman in the erection of the State-house. He married a daughter of Paul Revere, and was closely united with that gentleman in many of the revolutionary acts, which made his name famous in that day. He died January 15, 1829. The following notice of his death, drawn in the usual brief and characteristic style of his friend Benjamin Russell, appeared in the Centinel of January 17:—"Died in Quincy, on Wednesday last, Amos Lincoln, aged 75 years, formerly of Boston, and uncle to the governors of Massachusetts and Maine.* A patriot and a soldier of the Revolution, he was one of the intrepid band who consigned the *Tea* to the ocean in 1773, commanded a company of artillery during the Revolution, and sustained, through life, the character of an undeviating disciple of Washington, and that of an honest, useful man.

* Levi Lincoln was then governor of Massachusetts, and his brother, Enoch Lincoln, held the same office in Maine.

David West was a native of Boston. After learning the trade of a bookbinder, he opened a shop in Marlboro' (now Washington) street, where he bound and sold books. He also sold stationery and lottery tickets, and was fortunate enough to draw a prize of a thousand dollars. He was thus enabled to enlarge his business operations, and he soon engaged in publishing and bookselling, at No. 56 Cornhill, near the corner of Court-street. Oliver C. Greenleaf, who had been his apprentice, became his partner about 1800. After the dissolution of this partnership, Lemuel Blake became a partner in the firm, and conducted the business some time after the decease of Mr. West. Mr. West was two years treasurer of the association. He withdrew from it before his death.

James Phillips, the son of Isaac Phillips, a merchant of Boston, was born, May 14, 1767. In his youth he was employed in a ropewalk, owned by a maternal uncle, and afterwards was employed as the superintendant of ropewalks owned by Isaac P. Davis. He continued in this connection from 1795 to 1818, when the factory was destroyed by fire. He was then appointed by the selectmen of the town overseer, or master, of the alms-house. When the alms-house became transformed to the House of Industry, and was removed from its location at "Barton's Point" to South Boston, Mr. Phillips received the appointment of secretary to the Overseers of the Poor, and was continued in that office till the day of his death, which was March 30, 1853. His age was then eighty-six years ten months and seventeen days. He was then the oldest person holding any office under the city government. Mr. Phillips was in the military escort which conducted General Washington into Boston, in October, 1789, and, probably, outlived all who were then associated with him in that joyous parade. He was a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery company, and once commanded it, and united with it on all its parade and festive days till within a few years of his death. He also held the office of fire-ward, when that office was considered a post of honor, and was filled by the most active and responsible citi-

zens.* Under the town government, he was also surveyor of hemp. In our association, he was secretary several years, and afterwards a trustee; always active in the performance of any service with which he was intrusted. At the social meetings of the association and of the government, his good humor was an attractive feature in the entertainment. Many will recollect how much he contributed to the pleasure of these occasions, by his fund of anecdote, and his favorite songs, "Why should we at our lot repine," and the "Parson and his barrel of beer,"—the last of which he sung at the triennial festival in 1845. Mr. Phillips was uniformly esteemed as an upright man and a patriotic citizen. He was the last of the original members who retained their membership till their decease.

George Weller was a native of Waldoboro', in Maine. His parents were emigrants from Germany. When a youth, he went to New-York, and there learned the trade of a tailor, which, after the close of his apprenticeship, he practised in Boston, till his death, which took place in February, 1825. He seldom failed in his attendance on the meetings of the association, and was, in all respects, an exemplary member.

Jedidiah Lincoln was a brother of Amos, and was some time in partnership with him in the business of a carpenter and housewright.

Moses Thayer, tailor and stay-maker, kept in Rowe's-lane, now Bedford-street. For many years he was the messenger of the association, and was an active and useful member. He was one of the chief constables of the town, and, during the latter years of his life was much employed by the members of the bar and in attendance on the courts. He was rather small of stature, but fearless in the discharge of official duty.

Peter Cade was the owner, or occupant, of a rope-walk, in Pearl-street, which was destroyed by the great fire in 1794.

Josiah Fowle kept a hair-dresser's shop adjoining the well-known "Sign of the Lamb"—the site now occupied by

* By a new organization of the Fire Department, under the city government, the office of *fire-ward* was abolished.

the Adams house. He was a man of sickly constitution, but attended to his business with unflinching constancy, and acquired a handsome property. He relinquished the business of hair-dressing some years before his death, and kept a store of fancy goods. His character was irreproachable, and his death was sincerely lamented by neighbors and acquaintance.

Elkanah Cushman served an apprenticeship with Josiah Fowle, and was some time a partner with him in the business of hair-dressing.

Samuel J. Tuck made himself rich in the business of chair-making, to which he afterwards added that of selling paints, at a large store on the easterly side of Liberty-square. He built two or three elegant brick houses on Fort Hill. He was deeply concerned in navigation during the war of 1812, but he became embarrassed, and withdrew from the association.

John G. Scholtz, a German by birth, kept a furrier's shop in Newbury-street, and dealt largely in muffs and tippets, when those articles were in fashion fifty years ago.

Zachariah Hicks was born in Cambridge, January 28, 1755. He served a regular apprenticeship to the trade of a saddler, with Thomas Patten of Watertown. At the age of twenty-one, he came to Boston and commenced business in Cornhill, (now Washington-street,) where he continued thirty-one years. Public improvements and alterations in streets drove him from the shop where, for so long a period, he industriously pursued his occupation, and he removed to Court-street, where he actively continued his business till he reached his eightieth year. Mr. Hicks was one of the marshals of the grand civic procession which escorted General Washington into Boston in 1789. He was always a firm and undeviating disciple of Washington and Adams, in political principles. He was, at one time, an officer in the "Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company," and was twice elected a member of the House of Representatives. In the war of the Revolution he volunteered his services, and with others went to Newport, but was never actively engaged in any battle

with the British troops.* He was one of the body-guard of General Heath when that officer had his head-quarters in Boston. Mr. Hicks was best known as an upright, prudent, industrious mechanic, and as such he will be remembered by those to whom he was a father, and his example may be safely recommended to the generations which follow. In 1779, he was married, and lived, in a state of unimpaired domestic happiness, forty-seven years. He had fourteen children, of whom seven were living at the time of his death. Of the seven who died before him, *five sons* died abroad—one of the severest afflictions which Providence calls on man to suffer, and one which "none but he who feels it knows." In religious principle Mr. Hicks was a disciple of the Rev. John Murray, and was ardently attached to that gentleman from the beginning of his ministry in Boston to its close. After the death of Mr. Murray, Mr. Hicks withdrew to some extent his connection with the Universalists, supposing that they had departed from the principles of the original apostle of the sect. But whatever might have been his views on points of doctrine which are every where subjects of discipline and dispute, he was an honest and a good man. He died the beginning of May, 1842, aged eighty-seven years. The intelligence of his death surprized and startled many; for during the week preceding it, he was seen walking in the public places of the city, with his well-known firm and manly step, and exhibiting on his countenance the complacent smile which, for half a century, had appeared as the surest indication of a light heart, a clear conscience, and a mild and generous disposition. The disease of which he died was rapid in its operation, and, though painful in its earliest stages, left him in comparative ease two or three days before its fatal termination. His last hours were calm and peaceful. His power of speech was obstructed by ulcers in the throat,—the effect of inflammation,—but, to all appearance, his intellect remained unimpaired to

* It was said, at the time of Mr. Hicks's decease, that both he and his father were in the battle at Lexington, April 19, 1775, and that his father was killed in that action. I have no reason for doubting the fact, but I have not been able to find any authentic record to substantiate it.

the last moment. So quiet and painless was the struggle (if struggle it could be called) between life and death, that the ordinary cheerfulness of the features remained undisturbed, and the countenance seemed as if exulting in the assurance that the mortal had put on immortality.

William Andrews was born in Boston, where his father did the business of a boot and shoe-maker. The trade of a bookbinder he learned at Worcester, and set up in Boston as soon as he was twenty-one years of age. He employed a great number of apprentices, — sometimes from eight to twelve. Most of the work furnished by the large publishing house of Thomas & Andrews was executed at his shop, which was in the rear of his dwelling-house near the head of Summer-street. One of his apprentices, (William Goodwin,) was, for a few years, in partnership with him. Mr. Andrews gave up his share of the business to Goodwin, and, for a few years, kept a bookstore. Unremitted labor made sad havoc with his constitution, and, for some time before his death, he was quite an invalid. He was a deacon of the church in Brattle-square, — a man of uniform sobriety, of great liberality, generous to his apprentices, kind and charitable to all. His first apprentice, who lived with him many years, and who is still living, speaks of Mr. Andrews in terms of affectionate respect. Mr. Andrews served the association as secretary in a part of the year 1802, and the whole of the following year.

John Cotton was the eldest of the seventeen children of Solomon Cotton. He was born in Boston, June 9, 1771, served a regular apprenticeship with Samuel Gore, and carried on the business of house, ship, and sign painting, many years. By the death of a brother, Edward Cotton, he came into the possession of a bookstore, to which he added an apparatus for printing, and carried on the two kindred branches of business, in connection with another brother and a man by the name of Barnard, at the corner of Washington and Franklin streets. He served the association, at various times, in the capacity of secretary, trustee, vice-president, president, and treasurer; and his fellow-citizens, as a representative, senator, member of the board of health, fire-ward, and member of the constitu-

tional convention of 1820. From his first entrance on the stage of manhood, he was extensively known, and valued for his intelligence, sound principles, urbanity of manners, and fidelity of friendship. His notions of honor were somewhat severe, but his practice was always consistent with his principles. In the early part of his life he made a voyage to Europe, and spent some time in England and on the continent. His reading was general and judicious, — his power of observation quick, — his memory retentive; and whatever knowledge he acquired by reading and observation, he knew how to apply to the pleasure and advantage of himself and his friends. For some years previous to his death, his health was feeble, and compelled him to withdraw from the social meetings of his friends, in which he had long been a favorite; but the sufferings that arose from physical infirmity never affected the serenity of his temper or the uniform gentleness of his deportment. He died November 25, 1838, in the sixty-eighth year of his age.

Thomas Stoddard Boardman was the eldest son of Deacon William Boardman, with whom he served an apprenticeship to the hatting business, and with whom he was also a partner. The firm of William Boardman & Son did an extensive business, near the head of Ann-street, in the manufacture and sale of hats. They were also largely engaged in the purchase of furs, which they shipped to London. They also imported from thence hats and trimmings to a considerable extent, with which they supplied others of the trade. On the death of the senior partner, (which happened about 1809, at the advanced age of eighty,) the business was continued by Thomas S. Boardman, till within about three years of his death. He died, April 26, 1828, at the age of seventy-six years and one month — an upright, useful, and worthy man.

William Williams, a man of fine personal appearance and elegant manners, kept a hatter's shop in Ann-street. He was an excellent singer, and was chorister at the Second church. His fine voice and musical talent introduced him to much company, and many social and festive gatherings, and made him an agreeable companion and favorite, but contrib-

uted nothing to his pecuniary prosperity. He withdrew from the association in 1809.

Peter Mackintosh was born in Boston, October 6, 1757, and served a long and faithful apprenticeship with a blacksmith of the name of Richard Gridley. He was one of those few members, who never neglected a meeting of the association, unless kept away by an act of Providence. He died November 23, 1846, aged eighty-nine. He served some time in the army during the Revolution, and was entitled to a pension, which was granted just previous to his death and is now paid to his heirs. Industry, economy, and temperance secured the enjoyment of a long life in comfortable circumstances.

Solomon Cotton, born August 21, 1748, was the fourth child of John Cotton, of Portsmouth, N. H. who, soon after his marriage, removed to Boston, and purchased an estate in Griffin's lane, now Pearl-street, on which all his children, twelve in number, were born. Solomon was married in 1770, and had seventeen children, all born in the same house, which had been the place of his own birth. He served a long apprenticeship with his father, who carried on the business of a blacksmith, on Griffin's wharf, and was employed chiefly by the merchants and ship-owners. He was an influential man among the mechanics, and highly respected by his fellow-citizens. He died April 15, 1812.

Ezra Parmenter was born in Sudbury, June 26, 1760. The family was of old standing in that place, — John Parmenter, from whom they descended, having emigrated from England and settled in Sudbury prior to 1640. Mr. Parmenter lived in Sudbury, till he was about seventeen years of age, — a portion of which time he was learning the trade of a blacksmith. He then went to Boston and worked at his trade. During the Revolutionary war, he was employed by the state, in a laboratory, or workshop, situated on the spot, or near the spot, where the burial-ground is on Boylston-street. After the war he carried on business in partnership with Peter Mackintosh for some years. He then conducted it on his own account alone, and continued it so for the remainder of his life. He died April 14, 1808. Mr. Parmenter's business

was large and extensive for those days. He was employed by most of the principal merchants of his time, and did the iron work for the enlargement of Faneuil Hall, not long before his death. He was an active mechanic, a patriotic citizen, and a man of strong intellectual power. He had a lively taste for music, belonged to the choir of the New-South church in Summer-street, and was the author of the once popular psalm-tune called *Complaint* — a favorite in almost every church in New-England. Mr. Parmenter's eldest son, William, has been a senator in the legislature of Massachusetts, a representative in Congress, and in other stations of public trust. Another son, James, was bred a printer, and published a small literary paper in Boston in 1817 and 1818. A third son, Samuel, followed the business of the father. The two last mentioned have been dead some years.

Peter Smink. This singular and comical being was a Hessian. He came to this country with a regiment of his countrymen, in the pay of the British government, to fight the battle of foreign domination against domestic and native freedom. It is not known under what circumstances he left the British army, but soon after the close of the war he was in Charlestown, following the occupation of a silk-dyer, from whence he removed to Boston, and followed the same business in Cambridge-street, near West-Boston bridge. He probably came to America in the capacity of a musician. Soon after his settlement in Boston he became a member of a military band, and was a celebrated performer on the bassoon. His figure was almost orbicular, and his appearance always excited curiosity. He was an honest, well-meaning man, a punctual member of the association, and, like Sir John Falstaff, if he had no wit of his own, he was often the cause of it in others.

Samuel Perkins was born in Boston, September 2, 1770. His father was William Perkins, major in Colonel Crane's regiment of artillery of the Massachusetts line in the Revolutionary army, and afterwards, with the rank of colonel, was commander of the troops stationed on Castle Island, — now Fort Independence. When about thirteen years old, Mr.

Perkins went as an apprentice to Major John Johnson, a well known, and doubtless, by many, well remembered portrait painter, who kept in Court-street, near the head of Gore's alley. His object was to learn the common as well as the ornamental branches of the art. How long he continued with Johnson is not precisely known; but at the age of nineteen, he began the painting business, chiefly on houses and ships, by himself, and continued it till about 1815, when he undertook to paint carpets. This business he continued for some years in Boston, till the increased demand for his work induced him to build a large factory in Roxbury. The product of his skill was in great demand, till rival manufactories in New-York created a competition, which, together with his age, induced him to retire from the active pursuit of business. Mr. Perkins was twice president of the association, and might have served, constitutionally, another year, but declined a re-election. Such industry and sobriety as his would have made some men rich; but he was too generous and liberal-minded to allow his earnings to accumulate beyond a competency. He was universally esteemed for the uprightness of his character and the urbanity of his deportment. He died in Roxbury, on the second of August, 1846.

William Whall was an Englishman, born in London, and came to Boston soon after the Peace of 1783. In our records he is called "whitesmith," and in the Boston Directory of 1789, he is designated "gun-smith and bell-hanger;" but he was capable of executing almost any order that might be given to him for work in any or all the metals. His shop, at first, was in Kilby-street, and afterwards in Atkinson-street. He was a punctual and active member of the association, and sustained through life the character of an honest man. He had a son, William Whall, jun. who followed the same occupations.

Oliver Johonnot, descended from Huguenot ancestry, was born at Middletown, Con. January 1, 1760. He lost his father when he was quite young, and was taken to Boston to reside with his grandmother. When of a suitable age, he was placed at one of the public schools. In 1775, after the

battle of Bunker Hill, he attempted to leave Boston, but was stopped on the Neck, by an old tory, ordered back, and told that he would make a good fifer for his majesty. He succeeded, however, in making his escape, and visited his friends in Connecticut. He was again in Boston in 1776, and, in September of that year entered the naval service on board of a brig of sixteen guns, called the Rising Sun. In April, 1777, the brig was captured by a British seventy-four, the crew were declared rebels, and sent to a prison near Portsmouth. After a long imprisonment, several of the crew, of whom Johonnot was one, found means to escape. He made for London, traveling by night, and secreting himself by day under bridges and in ditches by the way-side. He was taken by a press-gang from a ship of war; and, to prevent being placed on board of it, confessed that he was an American, and had escaped from prison. He was taken again to prison, and, with twenty-nine others, was confined in a dungeon, and kept on one half of prisoners' allowance. In July, 1779, more than two years after their capture, they were exchanged, and sent in a cartel to France. Here Johonnot was placed, by an American agent, on board the Mifflin, a ship of war of twenty guns, which, after several skirmishes, arrived at Boston in December. Johonnot was detained on shore by sickness for more than six months, and, on his recovery, again sailed in the Mifflin, which was soon after taken by a British frigate and sent to Charleston, S. C. The crew were here put on board of a prison-ship, where they were kept till January, 1781, when they were exchanged and went to Wilmington, N. C. Here Johonnot shipped on board of a merchant vessel bound to the West-Indies, — was captured by one of Admiral Rodney's squadron, — transferred from one ship to another, — obliged to do duty, — was again confined in a prison-ship, — put on board of a disabled British ship, and compelled to assist in working her into Antigua. With others, he was marched across the island and kept in prison at St. John's until again exchanged. He arrived in Boston, December, 1781. In March, 1782, he sailed in the General Scammell, eighteen guns. After various adventures, some of

which were successful, the Scammell was taken by a British fifty-gun ship, and carried into New-York. The crew were placed on board the noted Jersey prison-ship, and detained there till the news of peace was received, when they were discharged and arrived in Boston in January, 1783. Mr. Johonnot had thus endured about seven years of suffering and privation on land and sea. Not long after the Peace he joined an artillery company in Boston, and passed through every grade from that of a private to that of "Major and commander of the sub-legion of artillery in the Boston Legionary Brigade." As a member of the Mechanic Association, he was highly respected, and was three years one of the trustees. He was not ambitious of the distinction of office, but discharged all the duties assigned to him to the best of his ability. He was a member of the old Democratic Jeffersonian party, and the true Whig principles, which he imbibed during the Revolution, he tenaciously adhered to through life. His death was caused by a fall in his house, which fractured a bone. Paralysis followed, and he expired, January 25, 1847, aged eighty-seven years.*

Henry Blaney, bricklayer, was the builder of many of the most substantial houses and stores in Boston, and among the latter, many of those on Central-wharf. He was also the master mason in the erection of the State-house. He was known and celebrated as one of the faithful of his trade; and his fidelity has received ample testimonial from those who have been employed in the removal of some of his work. He was noted for his truthfulness and unyielding integrity. One who knew him in the days of his activity, says,—Mr. Blaney never failed to rebuke unfaithfulness or fraud, in mechanics or merchants, whenever he discovered either in their business transactions with him. He was never known to make a discount on one of his bills, nor to charge a penny more than his labor and material were worth.

John Wells was a native of Boston, and lived in the mansion of his ancestors in Back-street, at the North End,

* See New-England Historic and Genealogical Register, October, 1852, p. 362.

and carried on an extensive business. He was a deacon of the New-North church, under the pastorate of the Rev. John Eliot, and exercised the functions of the office with singular fidelity. He was, proverbially, an honest and kind-hearted man. He died October 14, 1832.

Giles Richards was one of the most ingenious mechanics of his day. His regular business was the making of wool and cotton cards, but he contrived sundry labor-saving machines, which were beneficial to his fellow-citizens. He was a respectable man, highly esteemed by all who knew him, but was too ingenious to be rich.

Samuel Bangs, cordwainer, had a shop in Kilby-street, near the old Bunch of Grapes tavern. The passers-by seldom failed to notice his sedate and sober face, as he sat before his window, plying his awl and thread, with a constancy and regularity that were proverbial.

Ephraim Thayer was born in Braintree, in 1749. He was the son of James Thayer, who was the grandson of Shadrach Thayer, one of the early settlers of that town. He never served any apprenticeship, but was a self-taught mechanic, a very ingenious and industrious man. When quite young, he took in pieces an old pair of wheels, belonging to his father, and following them as a pattern, made a new pair, with such tools and timber as his father's farm afforded. Soon after, he let himself by the month, to a Mr. Wetherbee, a wheelwright, in Roxbury, with whom he worked some months. At the beginning of the Revolutionary War, he joined Captain John Vinton's company of artillery, in the regiment of Colonel (afterwards General) Henry Knox. It is not known how long he served in this regiment, but it was long enough to obtain a pension of $122 a year for a few years, commencing in 1831. While in the army he was frequently employed as an artificer, and one of his performances was the repairing of the wheels of General Washington's phaeton. In 1780, he set up a wheelwright's shop at the South End of Boston. Here he manufactured fire-engines, which were in good repute in Boston, and other large towns in New-England. He was captain of an engine company many years,

and as such did good service to the town. He made the carriages for all the guns of the frigate Constitution, built in Boston in 1798, and for the gun-boats which were built there during Mr. Jefferson's administration. He did much of a similar kind of work for the state, (General Amasa Davis, the quarter-master-general, being his next door neighbor,) mounting field-pieces, making gun carriages, tumbrels, &c. He was one of the Boston representatives several years. A friend, who lived near him, and was intimate with him and his family, says: "Mr. Thayer had no enemies — and no temper; or, if he had, he always kept it caged. He was highly and universally respected." * After performing a large portion of the world's work, he died in 1836, in the eighty-seventh year of his age.

Lemuel Gardner, was an active member for a number of years. His business was extensive and profitable. "He lived at a time of prosperity among the mechanics of Boston, who, earning their money easy, lived generously. He belonged to a set very hospitable, whose side-boards were loaded with plate, and who brought up their families in expensive style. They were enterprizing, ready to promote all public improvements, firm friends, carried a great sway in public, sung good songs, and seldom had a heavy heart or felt want." †

John Bray was born in Boston, August 4, 1761, and served an apprenticeship in Boston and Charlestown. "Commencing life poor, he acquired, by his industry, an independence. He was a culler and packer of fish — having at one time eighteen journeymen and apprentices — on Spear's wharf, which he owned. As one of the three weighers and guagers, who were paid by fees, he has been heard to say that his share on one occasion was $750 a month. After General

* The same friend states, that while sailing down the harbor with Mr. Thayer, on a fishing party, and passing Nix's Mate, he remarked that, when a boy, he rode a horse to plough in a field of two acres of Indian corn, where the beacon now stands. Very few, if any, persons now living, can remember seeing any bare ground at this place. It has long been covered by the waters of the Atlantic ocean. Fishing excursions frequently occurred during the summer season (more frequently in former than in later years) and were enlivened by anecdotes from the lips of Mr. Thayer.

† See Whitman's History of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery.

Lincoln resigned [his office as collector of the port] he was removed by his successor for his political opinions, and lived at ease on his income. Having had small advantages of education, which he always lamented, he balanced it by providing the best education for his children. He was passionate, but never vindictive, and his sudden transitions were peculiar. His house was the hospitable resort of old and young, whose enjoyment he delighted to witness, and he was charitable and kind to his poor neighbors. The only civil office he ever filled was that of selectman. He left a valuable property, and died August 12, 1829, aged 68."* Mr. Bray withdrew from the association some years before his death.

Shubael Bell was long known in Boston, as a deputy sheriff and jailer, and a constant attendant on the courts. He was a man of generous feelings, which he indulged to an extent far beyond his legitimate means. His kindness and courtesy to those, whom the law placed under his supervision, were proverbial. He was a zealous Episcopalian, and, for many years, was a warden of Christ church. He was the chief agent in the establishment of St. Matthew's chapel at South-Boston. His subscriptions for the purchase of bells, organs, and other furnishings of Episcopal churches were liberal to an extreme. He was distinguished as a Freemason, and filled various offices in lodges, chapters, and encampments. He was twice married, but had no children. He was active and industrious, but negligent in keeping accounts. He died in Boston in 1819, much lamented, and much poorer than many who had enjoyed the gifts of his bountiful good nature.

David Cobb was born in Abington, in the county of Plymouth, in 1772, and learned his trade of Deacon Richard Faxon. He was an edge-tool maker, a very first rate mechanic, a sensible and enterprizing man. Quarter-master-general Davis employed him several years to do for the state all the iron work, while the operations in wood were done by Ephraim

* Whitman's History of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, second edition, p. 344.

Thayer. He was captain, many years, of the Boston Artillery. He was a sturdy Federalist. When President Jefferson called for volunteers, to enforce embargo and non-intercourse laws, Mr. Cobb did not approve of those measures. When the *invitation* was read at the head of his company, for volunteers, he remarked, "it is a good soldier who will go when *ordered*."

John Russell was a brother to Benjamin Russell, with whom he occasionally worked in the office of the Columbian Centinel. About the year 1795, in connection with another brother, Joseph N. he published a paper called *The Boston Price-Current and Marine Intelligencer*. The partnership of the brothers was not of long continuance. The publication of the paper, which underwent several changes in form, size, typography, and name, was continued by John Russell,—singly or in connection with other partners,—till the end of the year 1823, when he disposed of his interest in it, and removed to Gardiner, in Maine, where he died.

Samuel Emmons, ropemaker, was the son of Samuel Emmons, also a ropemaker, of Boston,—born in 1756, and died in 1837. After learning the trade of his father, he went one voyage in a privateer during the Revolution. Soon after the War, he built a ropewalk, six hundred feet long, near Atkinson-street, which was burnt in 1794. He then built another walk on the west side of the Common, which was also burnt in 1806. Not discouraged by these repeated casualties, Mr. Emmons re-built, and this last factory was destroyed by fire, with those of Davis and Howe, in 1819. He thus suffered losses three times by fire. He withdrew from the association some years before his death.

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## 1796.

At the first meeting of the newly-chosen government, Paul Revere, Benjamin Russell, and John W. Folsom were appointed a committee to present to the Legislature a petition for an act of incorporation. The Legislature convened early

in January, and the petition was presented to the House of Representatives.

January 24. Messrs. Revere, Tuckerman, Russell, Clement, and Folsom were appointed by the government, "a committee to wait on the committee of the General Court, on the petition of the Associated Mechanics." Messrs. Hunewell, Callender, and Richards were also appointed "a committee to confer with the Boston members; to which were also added the rest of the trustees."

February —. One of the committees, mentioned above, reported that "a bill had been reported in the House of Representatives in favor of the petition, and, having had two several readings, had been recommitted, and then remained on the table of the House," — the "committee having made an unfavorable report." The record proceeds to state that "it was the opinion of the board of trustees, that the bill, notwithstanding the report in question, might have support in the House, and, at a favorable opportunity, ought to be called up." A committee was again instructed "to confer with the Boston Representatives on the subject, or otherwise determine, as shall promote, in their opinion, the best interests of the association."

March 10. Quarterly meeting. It was voted, "That the thanks of the association be given to the board of trustees, for their attention to the petition of the associated mechanics, now pending in the General Court; and that they be requested to pursue their exertions for obtaining an act of incorporation, in such manner as shall, in their opinion, best promote the interests of the society."

All these exertions were unsuccessful, and no charter was obtained.

April —. Government meeting. The treasurer was directed "to invest the sum of Two hundred dollars, in behalf of the associated mechanics of the commonwealth, in such public securities as, upon further inquiry, he may find to be most for the interest and security of the society."

May —. Government meeting. As a new Legislature was about to assemble, Messrs. Revere, Tuckerman, Russell, and Folsom were again instructed "to draft and present a

petition to the General Court, as soon as may be." The petition was duly presented, but action upon it was postponed to the next session.

September 8. Quarterly meeting. A motion was made, that there should be an annual public festival, which excited a long and warm discussion, and was finally withdrawn. The opponents, who appear to have been a majority of the members present, deemed the proposed festival inexpedient, while the application for a charter was pending in the Legislature.

November 10. Government meeting. The subject of the charter was again discussed; and "every member of the board was strictly enjoined to use all his influence with the members of the General Court, at their next session, in order to carry into effect the act of incorporation now pending in that body."

December 14. Annual meeting. The committee, appointed to examine the accounts of the secretary and treasurer, made a brief report, stating that the secretary had "paid into the hands of the treasurer all the moneys he had from time to time received belonging to the association;" — that "according to the treasurer's account, there appears to be due to him a balance of Eight dollars and eight cents;" — and that "there appears to be due to the association, from the several members, One hundred and ninety-six dollars and twenty-five cents."

The president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary were unanimously re-elected, and the following members were chosen as trustees for the year ensuing: —

| | |
|---|---|
| Richard Faxon, | Giles Richards, |
| Thomas Clement, | Jonathan Hunewell, |
| Stephen Gore, | Samuel Emmons, |
| Benjamin Russell, | James Eunson. |
| Edmund Hartt, | |

The following persons were admitted members during the year: —

| | |
|---|---|
| Joshua Pico, Cooper. | John Rice, Housewright. |
| George Claghorn, Builder. | Edward B. Walker, Housewright. |
| James Dawson, Tailor. | Moses Eayres, Housewright. |
| Joseph Tucker, Housewright. | Simeon Wade. |
| Samuel Billings, Housewright. | John Gordon, Tobacconist. |

# 1797.

At the first government meeting after the election, the times and places for their future meetings were fixed. Those meetings were held as usual, but there does not seem to have been any business to interfere with the social and convivial entertainments, until near the close of the year.

November 8. Government meeting. A disposition to have a public festival having been manifested by many members, the subject was taken up and freely discussed. The general opinion was in favor of the measure, "as one that would answer very good purposes," and a committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements. The committee reported, December 6, in favor of dining at Concert Hall, and another committee was appointed "to arrange a number of toasts for the occasion." There is no further record concerning the festival. Probably it was dispensed with for some cause not mentioned in the journal.

The quarterly meetings were held at the appointed times, but no business was transacted. No members were admitted.

December 13. Annual meeting. The report on the finances states that there were in the hands of the treasurer, Fifteen dollars and twenty cents, and a state note for Two hundred and ninety-seven dollars and thirty cents. Seventy-three dollars and eighty-one cents were due from the members in quarterly assessments.

Paul Revere, Edward Tuckerman, Samuel Gore, and John W. Folsom, were again re-elected to the offices of president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. Messrs. Faxon, Clement, Gore, and Richards retired from the office of trustee, and Thomas Patten, Zachariah Hicks, Humphrey Clark, and William Williams were placed on the board.

The secretary had hitherto received Fifty dollars a year as a compensation for his services. The association declined voting that sum, and referred the matter to the decision of the government.

# 1798.

January 3. Government meeting. No business appears to have been done, except the appointment of the times and places of the future meetings, and of a committee to report on the compensation of the secretary. The committee reported the sum of Twenty dollars.

The government meetings are stated to have been held every month, and the record of each closes with "No business transacted," until the meeting —

November 23, when "the subject of the society's dining together was taken up, there being but few members present at the last quarterly meeting of the society, it being then submitted to the trustees." After discussion, it was voted "That the trustees will, on the next annual meeting of the society, dine together at some suitable place, and that the members be generally notified in one or more of the Boston newspapers, and a subscription opened by the secretary for that purpose." It was also voted, "That the expenses, which are to be defrayed by each member, shall not exceed nine shillings each person." A committee of arrangements was then appointed.

No record is made of the quarterly meetings of the association in March, June, and September, if any such were held.*

December —. The record states that "at the annual meeting of the Associated Mechanics of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, held at the Green Dragon tavern, on the second Thursday of December, 1798, twenty-nine members were present at two o'clock, P. M." A committee of three members was appointed "to prepare a number of toasts suitable to the occasion." "As soon as the committee returned, the society sat down to a well-provided table and fared sumptuously. After dinner, the committee gave in a report

* A leaf has been here cut from the book of records — for what reason, or by whom, is unknown.

of toasts, which were read by their chairman,* each of which being so completely adapted to the occasion, were received with eclat, and interspersed with songs."

At the close of this "festival," the association met at the Latin school-house, for the transaction of the ordinary business of the annual meeting. A committee had been appointed, as usual, to examine the accounts of the secretary and treasurer, but no report appears to have been made.

Messrs. Revere and Tuckerman declined serving longer in their respective offices, as president and vice-president.† The following members were then chosen to fill the various offices in the government:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Jonathan Hunewell, *President.* | David West, *Treasurer.* |
| Benjamin Russell, *Vice-President.* | John W. Folsom, *Secretary.* |
| Edmund Hartt, | Ebenezer Larkin, |
| Samuel Emmons, | John Bray, |
| Zachariah Hicks, | Moses Eayres, |
| Humphrey Clark, | Solomon Cotton, |
| William Williams, | *Trustees.* |

Messrs. Hunewell, B. Russell, Larkin, Tuckerman, and Eayres were instructed, as a committee, "to prepare and present to the General Court, a petition, praying for an act of incorporation, and to advocate the same before such committee as should be appointed to report on it."

A committee was chosen "to prepare a suitable plate, or emblematic device, for the society. A committee was also appointed to report on the secretary's compensation for the year. "The committee having retired for a few moments, gave in a report, that, in their opinion, (and considering the fund of the society was small,) the sum of Twenty dollars be allowed the secretary," &c.—which report was accepted, and the meeting adjourned.

From the brief and imperfect records of the year, it is evident that the association was not, at that time, a popular

* Benjamin Russell.

† It is probable that Mr. Gore also resigned the office of treasurer, although no mention is made of his resignation.

institution, and the members were not in a state of the most perfect harmony. No members were admitted this year. The whole number admitted after the organization of the association appears to be but thirty-three. Some of these, as well as some who had taken part in the measures in which the association originated, had never signed the constitution nor complied with any of the requisitions of that instrument. Some had withdrawn, and two or three had been dismissed from membership.

A meeting of the newly-chosen government was held on the 29th of December, — when Messrs. Hunewell, I. P. Davis, and Samuel Gore were appointed a committee "to make inquiries respecting the purchase of a lot of land, suitable to erect a building to be called Mechanics Hall."

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## 1799.

January 23. Government meeting. The president presented "a letter from the Associated Mechanics of Rhode-Island, with a book of constitutions, and a copperplate engraving, emblematic of their order."

A petition was presented from James Davenport, "asking for a loan of money to assist him in the establishment of a certain machine for spinning twine," — which was referred to a committee, composed of Messrs. Revere, I. P. Davis, Emmons, J. Phillips, and Hunewell.

January 30. The committee reported that, "in their opinion, the machine cannot be made of public utility." The report was accepted, and it was voted, that "the granting of a loan of money from the funds for the purpose proposed, was not within the limits of the power of the trustees."

March 14. Quarterly meeting. J. W. Folsom gave notice that he should resign the office of secretary.

June 13. Quarterly meeting. James Phillips was unanimously chosen to the office of secretary.

No further business of importance appears to have been transacted, or proposed at any of the government meetings, till

September 18, when it was ordered that a committee, with the secretary, "sort the list of members, — that they be made into six classes, and divided among the trustees, that they may wait on them, to know whether they mean to be considered members or not." The report of this committee (if a report was made) is not on record.

October —. The government voted that "a donation of Ten dollars, from the fund of the association, be granted to John Keith, "a deceased mechanic." *

November —. The government voted that there should be a public festival on the day of the next annual election of officers, and a committee was appointed to prepare a dinner. A committee was also appointed to audit the accounts of the secretary and treasurer; but no notice of their proceedings is on the record.

December, second Thursday. Annual meeting, at Mrs. Marean's in Wing's lane. † Seventy members were present, at two o'clock, and "sat down to a sumptuous entertainment, with the hall handsomely decorated with the standards of the different branches, and the portraits of the president of the United States, and General George Washington."

Immediately after the dinner, the officers for the ensuing year were chosen as follows: —

| | |
|---|---|
| Jonathan Hunewell, *President.* | David West, *Treasurer.* |
| Benjamin Russell, *Vice-President.* | James Phillips, *Secretary.* |
| Solomon Cotton, | Moses Eayres, |
| William Williams, | Jonathan Balch, |
| Humphrey Clark, | William Todd, |
| Zachariah Hicks, | Henry Purkitt, |
| Ebenezer Larkin, | *Trustees.* |

* This was the first donation from the funds for any charitable purpose. It does not appear that Keith was a member of the association.

† Now Elm-street.

From the journal of the Legislature it appears that on the 15th of January, a petition for an act of incorporation was read in the Senate and referred to a joint committee, — Messrs. Thompson and Thayer, of the Senate, — that the House of Representatives concurred in the reference, and added to the committee, Messrs. Ward, Barnes, and Prescott. The committee reported a reference to the next session of the General Court, and the subject was so referred. At the next session, in May, the petition and report were taken from the files, and referred to a joint committee, — Messrs. Thayer and Mason, of the Senate, — Russell of North-Yarmouth, Pickman of Salem, and Russell of Boston, of the House of Representatives. The committee reported that the petitioners have leave to bring in a bill. The report was accepted in the Senate, but was rejected in the House of Representatives. The following is a copy of the petition: —

To the Honorable the Senate, and Honorable the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The petition of the subscribers, Trustees and Members of the Mechanic Association of said Commonwealth, in behalf of themselves and associates, respectfully represents: —

That conscious of the rectitude of their intentions, and that their request is founded on principles of usefulness to the community at large, as well as of utility to themselves; — and satisfied of the liberality, enlightened policy, and wisdom of the Honorable Court, they are emboldened to renew their request for an Act of Incorporation.

When your petitioners first solicited the attention of the Honorable Legislature to their prayer, such was the state of political parties in our country, that extreme jealousy was a virtue; — and associations of almost every description were considered as *rallying points* of sedition. Unfortunately, and very unjustly, the mechanic association incurred this suspicion; — but, having shown their rules and regulations, and demonstrated by their practice, for the three years since their establishment, that the suspicion is unfounded; — they entertain the hope that it is entirely eradicated from the bosoms of their Political Fathers, — that their request will now be considered on its true basis, — and that the mechanics of Massachusetts will enjoy the privileges and advantages of an incorporation, in common with their brethren of the states of Rhode-Island, New-York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and South-Carolina.

Your petitioners ask no privileges inconsistent with the interests of any part of their fellow-citizens; and they will, with the utmost cheerfulness,

acquiesce in any restriction the Honorable Court shall be pleased to prescribe to their fund and regulations.

To promote their happiness as mechanics and men, — to give aid and encouragement to genius in indigent circumstances, — to advance the mechanic arts, and improvements, by loans of money, — to afford relief to the widows and orphans of deceased mechanics, they have established a fund, and have formed themselves into a society. To give permanency and security to that fund; to increase the number of contributors to it; and to add weight and respectability to the institution, they wish to be incorporated as a Body Politic.

They therefore humbly pray your Honorable Court to take their request into your wise consideration, and grant them such favor in the premises as you in your wisdom shall deem it fit and proper.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Signed,

| | |
|---|---|
| Jonathan Hunewell, | Eben. Larkin, |
| Benjamin Russell, | Zachariah Hicks, |
| Moses Eayres, | William Williams, |
| Edward Tuckerman, | Edmund Hartt, |
| Samuel Emmons, | John Bray, |
| David West, | Humphrey Clark. |

The originals of the two following letters have been discovered among the mass of old papers, that were indiscriminately thrown together in the early years of the association. No notice is taken of them in the records, though it is evident, from the letter of Mr. Otis, that the trustees had requested his legal opinion in the case: —

Boston, May 22, 1799.

*To the President and Trustees of the Mechanic Association, &c.*

The subscriber, a member of the mechanic association, begs leave to state to the board of trustees, that an indented apprentice of his, named Joshua Rand, having nearly completed his twentieth year, has left his service, and entered on board the United States frigate, General Greene, at Newport: — That the subscriber has taken the means within his power to recover the services of the said apprentice, and has not been able to succeed: — He therefore requests the aid of the board of trustees, in the manner in which he ought further to proceed, and to inquire whether that assistance is not in power of the trustees to grant from the funds of the association. The subscriber solicits the board to take the subject into consideration; and is, with all due respect, their humble servant and associate,

SAMUEL J. TUCK.

SIR, — In reply to the questions stated by you, I observe that I am of opinion that the recruiting officer of the United States cannot hold, under any enlistment, indented apprentices, contrary to the will of their masters. By the constitution, Congress can make no laws impairing the obligation of contracts; but, between masters and apprentices, *personal service* is of the essence of the contract. Soldiers indeed may be privileged from arrest on account of contracts in the nature of *debts*. Here the remedy is suspended, but the obligation is not impaired. If a servant, legally bound for years, may be discharged by enlistment, those who are bound for life may be discharged by the same rule. This doctrine would lead to the emancipation of all the slaves on the continent. A master has a property in the services of his apprentices while he, on his part, fulfils his agreement. The proper remedies for the master in the case of an enlisted apprentice are, first, after a demand and refusal, to seize his apprentice whenever he can find him, or to take him, by writ of *habeas corpus*, before some judge, or court, of competent jurisdiction. Secondly, I think, that *after notice* to the paymaster or agent of the corps, the master of an apprentice enlisted, without his consent, would be entitled to the earnings of the apprentice.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

H. G. OTIS.

Major RUSSELL.

Fourteen persons were admitted this year to membership, viz: —

| | |
|---|---|
| Joseph Lovering, Tallow-chandler. | Joseph Stokes, Carver and Gilder. |
| Jonas S. Bass, Tanner. | Jonathan Emmons. |
| William Symmes. | John Pierce, Bricklayer. |
| John D. Howard, Sailmaker. | John Smith. |
| George Singleton, Cooper. | Hezekiah Hudson, Cooper. |
| Jonas Childs, Tailor. | Otis Wyer. |
| Joseph Palmer, Hatter. | William Crosby. |

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# 1800.

January —. A special meeting of the government was held, in consequence of an invitation from the selectmen of Boston, requesting the various societies of the town to unite with them in funeral honors to the memory of General George Washington, who died on the 14th of December, 1799. A committee was appointed to carry into execution the arrangements of the town. Mr. Hunewell, as president

of the association, issued an advertisement, inviting *all the mechanics of the town* to meet at the senate-chamber of the Old State House, to make suitable arrangements for joining their fellow-citizens in the funeral ceremonies. The call was responded to with great unanimity when the appointed day arrived. A procession was arranged by the president and trustees of the association. The different trades, forty-five in number, were arranged in alphabetical order, — each trade having a standard, emblematic of the profession to which it belonged, and borne by a prominent member. These ceremonies took place on the 9th of January.*

A government meeting is recorded on the 16th of January, at which sundry duties of the secretary, relating to future meetings and to the admission of members, were distinctly pointed out. He was directed to publish in one or more of the Boston newspapers, ten days previous to the quarterly meetings of the association, an advertisement in the form following: —

MECHANIC ASSOCIATION. — A meeting of the trustees of the mechanic association will be held on Wednesday, the —— inst. The combination of the mechanic powers, it will be allowed, hath proved the source of those useful improvements in society which have increased its wealth and respectability, and ameliorated the condition of man: It may therefore rationally be inferred that the association of those who profess these arts will appreciate their condition, both as mechanics and men. Those mechanics, who are desirous to become members of the association, must apply to either of the under-mentioned, who will propose them at the quarterly meeting to be held the —— day of —— ensuing.

To be signed by all the officers.

The president of the United States had issued a proclamation, recommending that the twenty-second of February should be observed as a day of mourning and humiliation, to which the government of the association promptly and unanimously responded. A committee of arrangements, *chosen from the mechanic interest at large*, united with the government; and under their direction, a procession, similar to that of the 9th of January, was formed in State-street, and was

* This account is taken from the newspapers of the day. No notice of the proceedings appears on the records.

escorted to the Old South meeting-house by a military company, — the Columbian Volunteers, commanded by Captain William Harris, a member of the association. The procession was joined by the lieutenant-governor,* the president of the senate, many members of the legislature, judges, United States, state, and municipal officers, clergy, foreign consuls, and a large number of citizens. The exercises at the meeting-house consisted of prayers, funereal odes and hymns, and an oration by Mr. Joseph Tuckerman.†

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* Moses Gill, the lieutenant-governor, was then acting governor, in consequence of the death of Governor Increase Sumner.

† This gentleman was a son of Edward Tuckerman, the first vice-president of the association. He graduated at Harvard college, in 1798, in the class with William Ellery Channing and Joseph Story. When quite young, he was ordained pastor of the congregational church in Chelsea. After an acceptable ministry of some years in that town, he removed to Boston, and established the "Ministry to the Poor," — a vocation in which he labored with disinterested earnestness and benevolence. He received, from the college, in 1824, the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. He died in 1840, deeply regretted, as a truly Christian philanthropist and public benefactor.

The following "Dirge, or Sepulchral Service," formed a part of the religious performances of this occasion. It was written by John M. Williams, better known as "Anthony Pasquin," a signature under which he had gained much notoriety as a writer in London newspapers and magazines. It was set to music by Oliver Holden of Charlestown, and performed by a select choir: —

SOLEMN RECITATIVE.

Lo! Sorrow reigneth and the nation mourns; for the Lord God of Israel hath taken away the counselor, the mighty man, the man of war. But the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away: blessed be the name of the Lord.

AIR.

Parent of Mercy! Lord benign,
Who sits on high enthroned,
Who gives the beam of day to shine,
Whose mandates Nature owned, —
Who fills the sickening rose with vivid dew,
And fixed the cause from whence existence grew,
Look down upon a nation's woe, —
Forbid the streams of misery to flow.

RECITATIVE.

He tempered the energies of Roman virtue with the forbearance of the Christian spirit; and will remain to posterity an illustrious example, — the theme of praise and immortal admiration.

RESPONSE BY THE CHOIR.

He burst the fetters of the land;
He taught us to be free;
He raised the dignity of man;
He bade a nation BE.

After the settlement of some incidental affairs, relating to the funeral ceremonies, the chief business of the year was the admission of members. At the quarterly meeting, March 13, sixty-two persons were admitted, and the meeting was adjourned one week, when twenty-eight were admitted, and the meeting was again adjourned for a week, when two others were admitted. Other candidates were on the list, but there were no further ballotings till the regular quarterly meeting in June, at which nineteen were admitted. Seven more were admitted in September, and eighteen more at the annual

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RECITATIVE

In a crisis of dark and unexampled peril, when anarchy had enfeebled reason, he had the power and constancy to preserve the commonwealth from imminent desolation.

AIR.

Sedition, who had maddening reigned,
Ere he the foaming fiend had chained,
Now bursting from his iron cave,
Will stalk again, as Ruin's slave,
Untwine the serpent from his hair,
To wander as a social snare;
Thus Guilt will wound his own repose!
Thus Folly doubt the good he knows.

RESPONSE, *as before.*

RECITATIVE.

Elevated by the conquest of himself, he was superior to vanity. His feeling was honor, and his thought wisdom. In blessing others, he was amply blest. He feared to do wrong, but he knew no other fear.

DUET.

Nor Syrian perfume, nor the regal gem,
Nor Beauty's potency, nor Valor's might,
Can abrogate the destiny of man,
Or stay the mantle of oblivion's night.
The noble and the impotent of soul,
Adown the ebbless and the ceaseless current flow;
'T is ours to brighten Life's illusive guile,
And make our virtue mitigate our woe.

RESPONSE, *as before.*

RECITATIVE.

His laurels as a conqueror were spotless, and his code of legislation perfect He consecrated the federal compact upon the altar of Justice. His life evinced the glory of Humanity; his end displayed the bliss of resignation: released from mortal care, he is now ascended to the heaven of heavens.

RESPONSE.

He burst the fetters of the land;
He taught us to be free;
He raised the dignity of man;
He bade a nation BE.

meeting in December: — making, in the whole, *one hundred and thirty-six* admissions during the year. Two members were permitted, by a special vote, to withdraw from the association, "on paying up their arrearages."

An amendment to the constitution, recommended by a committee, was adopted; but is not on record.

Joseph Stokes, a member, appealed to the association for the settlement of a difficulty with an apprentice, and Messrs. Hicks, Balch, Todd, B. Russell, and M'Kean were appointed a committee to investigate the affair; but no further notice of it appears on the record.

The meetings of the government were regularly held, but no business was transacted, except the appointment of committees to investigate the accounts of the secretary and treasurer, and to make arrangements for a festival. The following document, preserved on the files of the secretary, illustrates the formalities observed on the occasion of the festival: —

*Boston, Nov.* 20, 1800.

Mr. President,—I have been requested by the committee of arrangements, to make an exhibit to you of their proceedings, for your information; and have the honor to be, with respect and consideration, your very humble servant, B. RUSSELL, *Chairman.*

Jonathan Hunewell, Esq.

In committee of arrangement, Nov. 19, 1800. Present: — all the committee — punctually.

On motion of Capt. Bray, voted, That Mr. Henry Purkitt, and Capt. Thomas Stutson be a committee to draft a subscription paper, for the signatures of such members of the association as wish to dine at the anniversary feast: — that they be empowered to procure the printing, and sign the tickets of admission: — to employ some suitable person to present the subscription paper to each member of the association, and to deliver tickets to those who subscribe for the tickets: — and that they instruct said person to receive two dollars from each person subscribing.

Voted, also, that the said committee, as early as may be, communicate to the president of the association, the number of members which may subscribe, in order that a suitable number of marshals may be appointed.

On motion of Capt. Stutson, voted, That Major Russell, Mr. Timothy Green, Capt. John Bray, Mr. Henry Purkitt, and Capt. Shubael Bell, be a committee to contract with some suitable person or persons, to furnish a dinner for the association, and such liquors as shall be necessary.

Voted, also, That said committee contract with such musicians as they shall judge necessary to attend the association on the day.

On motion of Mr. Purkitt, voted, That Major Russell, Capt. Bell, and Capt. Stutson be a committee, to draft the necessary and appropriate toasts; and to procure suitable songs, &c.

On motion of Capt. Homer, voted, That Capt. Shubael Bell and Mr. George Singleton be a committee to contract with two or more peace-officers to attend the association that day.

On motion of Mr. Singleton, voted, That Capt. Michael Homer be empowered to contract with the printers of the Centinel, Chronicle, Mercury and Price Current, for advertising the feast; that he direct the draft of the advertisement, and give the necessary directions for its insertion.

On motion of Mr. Purkitt, voted, That Capt. Bray, Mr. Green, and Capt. Homer be a committee to decorate the place where the association may dine, in such manner as they shall think proper; and that they be empowered to request the assistance therein, of one member of each branch of the mechanic arts, who are members of the association.

On motion of Capt. Homer, voted, That Capt. Thomas Stutson be recommended as toast-master on the anniversary.

On motion of Capt. Bray, voted, That the chairman of each sub-committee report to the chairman of the general committee, on Wednesday next, the progress made by the sub-committees.

On motion of Capt. Bell, voted, That the chairman be requested to make an exhibit to the president of the association of the proceedings of this evening, for his information.

BENJAMIN RUSSELL, Chairman.

Further to illustrate the customs of our predecessors, the following is selected from numerous papers of a like character, on the files of the association:—

We the undersigned, members of the mechanic association, being desirous to celebrate, with harmony and social order, the auspicious day of its nativity, in order to recognize those sublime principles, which actuated each individual, in forming the same, for our benefit and mutual happiness, do, for the purpose aforesaid, pay to the committee, specially appointed by said society to receive the same, Two dollars, as placed against our names respectively:—

Jonathan Wheeler, Henry Purkitt, Elkanah Cushman, John G. Scholtz, John M'Farlane, John Cornish, Henry Messinger, W. Whall, jun. W. Whall, sen. Joseph Callender, James Eussec, Peter Smink, Thomas Hearsey, Ephraim Marsh, Benjamin Howland, William Andrews, William Crosby, John D. Howard, Joseph Palmer, William Harris, Peter Gilman, Amasa Murdock, Levi Taylor, John Tuckerman.

December 18. Annual meeting, in the Senate-chamber of the Old State House. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: —

Jonathan Hunewell, *President.* Francis Wright, *Treasurer.*
Benjamin Russell, *Vice-President.* James Phillips, *Secretary.*

William Todd, Jonas S. Bass,
Jonathan Balch, Gershom Spear,
Daniel Messinger, Joseph Lovering,
Jonathan Kilton, Oliver Johonnot,
John Cotton, *Trustees.*

After the election of officers, "the vice-president having informed the society that the president wished to present them with a standard, the marshals formed the members into a hollow square, and the president presented the standard to Major Russell, who was appointed to receive the same. Major Russell then presented the standard to Mr. Jonathan Kilton, who was previously appointed standard-bearer by the president." A committee was instructed to present the thanks of the association to the president, for his present.

"Business having thus ended, the company was properly arranged by marshals appointed by the president for that purpose, and marched down to Fanueil Hall, honored with the company of the selectmen and the Rev. Mr. Eckley and the Rev. Mr. Tuckerman, where a sumptuous entertainment was provided, and the day was ended with pleasure."

The following are the names of the persons admitted to membership during the year, — some of whom never signed the constitution, and consequently never became members: —

William Callender, Turner.
William Homer, Stone Cutter.
Daniel Bowen, Printer.
Thomas Godfrey, Baker.
John Jourdan, Carpenter.
Jacob Hyler, Shipwright.
Richard Austin, Pewterer.
Elijah Learned, Cabinet-maker.
Giles Alexander, Cabinet-maker.
Thomas Lilly, Founder.
James Barry, Cooper.
Thomas Emmons, Cooper.
Elisha Tower, Cooper.
Nathaniel Howe, Cooper.
Richard Gridley, Blacksmith.
William Ratchford, Blacksmith.
John Crease, Blacksmith.
Richard Jaquith, Cordwainer.
John M. Lane, Hairdresser.
John Bosson, Hairdresser.
Jesse Mayo, Hairdresser.
John Ashton, Hairdresser.
Joseph Callender, Engraver.
James Loring, Printer.

Richard Thayer, Carpenter.
Henry Swift, Baker.
Benjamin Proctor, Sailmaker.
Samuel Symes, Sailmaker.
Thomas Curtis, Hairdresser.
George Vaughan, Painter.
Thomas Stutson, Carpenter.
Noah Daggett, Carpenter.
Ephraim Marsh, Carpenter.
Benjamin Howland, Carpenter.
Joab Hunt, jun. Carpenter.
Jeremiah Goodwin, Carpenter.
Henry Fowle, Blockmaker.
David Stanwood, Blockmaker.
Anthony Dumesnil, Watchmaker.
Thomas Popkin, Blacksmith.
Benjamin Jackson, Housewright.
William Brazier, Ropemaker.
Lemuel Cox, Wheelwright.
William R. Martin, Wheelwright.
Hopestill Hall, Wheelwright.
William Jennings, Wheelwright.
John Trask, Wheelwright.
Levi Taylor, Wheelwright.
Amasa Murdock, Wheelwright.
William Whall, jun. Blacksmith.
Benjamin Jennings, Blacksmith.
Andrew Rhoades, Hairdresser.
Hezekiah Chadwick, Hairdresser.
Benjamin Hanners, Hairdresser.
Robert New, Hairdresser.
Ebenezer White, Hairdresser.
Benjamin Comey, Mast-maker.
Job Drew, Cordwainer.
Samuel Sprague, Mason.
Thomas Redman, Paper-stainer.
William Fisher, Stone-cutter.
Daniel Raynard, Moddler.
Simon Hastings, Housewright.
Joseph Willett, Housewright.
Jabez Bullard, Housewright.
Josiah Porter, Housewright.
James Blake, Housewright.
Shove Howland, Housewright.
Stephen Goff, Housewright.
James Maloney, Terrace-worker.
William Hawes, Chairmaker.
William West, Chairmaker.
William M. S. Doyle, Paper-stainer.
Noah Porter, Mason.
Jonathan Whitney, Mason.
Peter Osgood, Mason.
William Lankester, Mason.
Francis Wright, Tobacconist.
William M'Kean, Tobacconist.
Benjamin T. Wells, Coppersmith.
Jonathan Horton, Blacksmith.
James Burchistead, Shipwright.
Lot Wheelwright, Shipwright.
Hawkes Lincoln, Shipwright.
Nathan Pratt, Shipwright.
James Brewer, Blockmaker.
Benjamin Varney, Blockmaker.
Daniel Hewes, Turner.
Elisha Norcross, Hairdresser.
William Pierce, Hairdresser.
Samuel Jenks, Blacksmith.
Benjamin Hall, Carpenter.
Turner Crooker, Mason.
John Tuckerman, Baker.
William Hichborn, Coach-maker.
Peter Gilman, Tailor.
Timothy Pease, Cooper.
Simon Francis, Cabinet-maker.
William Harris, Mast-maker.
Benajah Brigham, Mason.
Nathaniel Ireland, Blacksmith.
William Tufts, Distiller.
William Minzies, Coppersmith.
William Hay, Cabinet-maker.
Samuel Brintnall, Mast-maker.
Leach Harris, Shipwright.
Robert Howe, Turner.
Timothy Green, Pewterer.
Benjamin T. Cross, Compositioner.
James Wade, Carpenter.
Thomas Tilden, Mason.
Benjamin Hichborn, Carpenter.
Nathaniel Bradlee, Carpenter.
Robert Steward, Carpenter.
Rufus Baxter, Cordwainer.
Thomas Avis, Cooper.

William Wyman, Leather-dresser.
Thomas Heath, Mason.
Ward Jackson, Housewright.
George Graham, Engraver.
Thomas Benson, Print-cutter.
Ephraim Hucherson, Cooper.
Benjamin Owen, Cooper.
William Thayer, Braintree, Blacksmith.
Uriah Tufts, Blacksmith.
Elijah Lewis, Blacksmith.
William Laughton, Baker.
Joseph Allen, Baker.
James Bolter, Housewright.
Benjamin Harris, Housewright.
Nicholas Pierce, Mason.
Samuel Curtis, Leather-dresser.
Edward Sisk, Dedham, Leather-dresser.
Samuel Hastings, Painter.
James Cutler, Printer.
Thomas W. Sumner, Housewright.

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# 1801.

The first meeting of the newly-elected government was held at the house of the president, who opened the meeting with the following speech: —

Gentlemen, — At the commencement of the monthly meetings of the officers of the association, permit me to take a general view of the present state of the association, and to recommend to your consideration the adoption of measures which may be calculated to promote its interest and extension, and the happiness of its members.

In the first place give me leave to recommend to your notice the services of those past officers, whose exertions you have witnessed in rendering our institution so flourishing. The committee of arrangements of the late festival are also, I think, entitled to your acknowledgements, as well as the marshals and other officers of that day.

This board being, by the constitution, the guardians of its funds, it is incumbent on you, gentlemen, at stated times, to audit and settle the books and accounts of the secretary and treasurer, to ascertain the amount of the funds, and to provide that they be invested in the new treasurer. Committees are frequently chosen to report on subjects highly interesting to the association. Those committees ought frequently to be called on for their reports. It is with peculiar pleasure I state to you, gentlemen, the rapid increase and prosperity of our association. In 1798, it consisted of about ninety members; in 1799 they increased to one hundred and fourteen, and, during the last year, to two hundred and seventy-five. The members appear to be well united; our meetings are fully and punctually attended, and a general disposition appears prevalent to advance each others' happiness. Many, however, who have been admitted, have not yet signed the books. Since our last meeting, the constitution of the association has been printed, and many of the members have been

supplied therewith. Is it not our duty, gentlemen, to urge it on our brethren to possess themselves with it, in order that they may be acquainted with their duties and privileges?

The certificates of membership have also been made out, signed and sealed. In my opinion, if all the members would take them, and have them framed, they would essentially tend to our increase.

The funeral fund has been subscribed by twenty-three members. It is necessary for you, gentlemen, in my opinion, to prescribe the number which shall be expedient to its being put in active operation, and also the certificate which each member is entitled to by the constitution.

The certificates of apprenticeship are also ready, and some of them have been taken up. And give me leave, gentlemen, on this occasion, to recommend to you that degree of economy and prudence in our monthly meetings, which must have a tendency to promote the health, and subserve all our interests. We have, gentlemen, been at considerable expense in procuring plates for certificates of membership and for apprentices, for printing the new constitution, obtaining new books, and the signature of members thereto; notwithstanding which I am happy to find that our funds are on the increase.

Confident as I am that every thing on your part will be done to promote the interest and happiness of our society, I do assure you, gentlemen, that you may depend on my hearty co-operation in such measures, at all times, as may tend to this desirable object.

These remarks of the president, — though not made in the style of a scholar, — were an evidence of good sense and correct judgement. They were appropriate and well-timed, and seem to have produced some effect. It was the custom for every member of the board of trustees, at whose house the monthly meeting was held, to give a supper, composed, frequently, of the luxuries of the market, and always furnished with wines, and other beverages, which are now banished from social entertainments, but of which it was not then dishonorable to partake, even to excess. These expensive entertainments might well justify the president in recommending the observance of economy and prudence at their monthly meetings, as a means of promoting health and subserving the general interest. Committees had been exceedingly remiss in attending to matters referred to them, and in making reports of their transactions. There had been no detailed report on the accounts of the secretary and treasurer for two or three years, and very few, if any, of the members were ac-

quainted with the financial affairs of the association. Many persons, who had been admitted as members, neglected, or refused, to sign the constitution, and to pay for their certificates of membership; and many others neglected to pay the small sum (twenty-five cents,) prescribed by the constitution as a quarterly assessment. Indeed the whole business was conducted in a loose and slovenly manner, and required the attention of the officers to regulate and reform what had been done amiss, and to provide for a better management in future.

The trustees took into consideration the several matters referred to by the president, and established as a rule, that, at all future meetings, the reports of committees, appointed at previous meetings should be called for; and that all committees should be expected to report in thirty days after their appointment. Some further provisions were made with a view to obtaining the signatures to the constitution of all members immediately after their admission.

In regard to the Funeral Fund, it was voted that when fifty members had become subscribers to it, the object of its institution should be in operation. The following form of a certificate of subscription was adopted, viz:—

This certifies, That —— of —— is a member of the Funeral Fund of the Associated Mechanics and Manufacturers of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, commencing the first day of January, 1801, and that his family is entitled to all the benefits of the same.

A committee was chosen to investigate the funds of the society, and settle the accounts of the late treasurer. This committee, agreeably to the vote of the trustees, at the next monthly meeting of that body, reported progress, and had further time allowed them to finish their business.

January 28. Government meeting. A communication from the "Coopers' society" was presented by Gershom Spear, one of the trustees, stating that the master coopers "had formed an association and adopted constitutional laws, rules, and regulations," and expressing a wish that they might be acknowledged as a branch of the mechanic association. The communication was referred to a committee, which reported

at the next subsequent meeting, expressing great satisfaction with the proceedings of the Coopers' society, and stating that the request to be considered a branch of the association could not be acceded to, consistently with the provisions of the constitution, which did not admit that any particular societies of trades should be acknowledged as branches of the association.

The president was requested "to address letters to the different associations in the United States, mentioning the officers for the present year, and make any other communications that he may think proper."

A committee was appointed to prepare and report "a key to the certificate of membership."

February 25. Government meeting. The committee to examine the accounts of the secretary made a detailed report of receipts and expenditures. The recapitulation exhibited the state of the funds as follows, viz: —

| | |
|---|---|
| State note, drawing 5 per cent. interest, for | $297 30 |
| Cash in the treasurer's hands, . . . | 280 00 |
| Cash in the secretary's hands, . . . | 16 77 |
| Due from sundry members, . . . . | 116 75 |
| One year's interest on state note, . . . | 14 86 |
| | $725 68 |

The same committee reported that Fifty dollars be granted to the secretary in full compensation for his services to the first day of January, 1801.

B. Russell, F. Wright, and J. Balch were appointed a committee to consider the propriety of admitting honorary members. The same members were directed to consider the expediency of having an assistant secretary; and also to prepare an answer to the address of the president at the first government meeting.

It was voted "that the certificates of membership, standing in the names of Messrs. Vaughan and Crease be sent to their families, framed and glazed, at the expense of the gentlemen present." These two members, then recently deceased, had never received their certificates, but had paid entrance fees and all assessments.

March —. Quarterly meeting. A report that it was inexpedient to admit honorary members, and another adverse to the appointment of an assistant secretary, — were accepted.

Eighteen candidates were admitted.

April —. Government meeting. A committee to prepare a key to the certificate of membership made a report, which was accepted. The record states that "the committee chosen to draft an answer to the president's address, reported as follows," — but the entire page following this sentence, is a blank.

Renewed efforts were made to collect the outstanding dues of members, but the efforts were not, probably, very successful, as no notice appears thereafter on the record.

A committee was appointed to devise ways and means for increasing the fund. Subsequently the committee reported, that the quarterly assessment on each member should thereafter be Fifty cents, — which report was unanimously accepted by the trustees, and confirmed by the association.

June 18. Quarterly meeting. A petition for charity, "in favor of Mr. Hans, a poor ingenious mechanic," was presented, and a collection of $14 50 was made among the members, and given to Henry Purkitt, to be transmitted to Mr. Hans.

The "key to the certificate was read, accepted, and distributed to the members." The following is a copy of it: —*

*Explanation of the Certificate of Membership of the Massachusetts Mechanic Association.*

At the top an extensive *Balance*, or Scale-Beam, is seen issuing from an irradiation. From the right point of the *Balance* various *Bales* are suspended, to represent the *Commercial;* and from the left point numerous *Implements of Handicrafts*, to designate the *Mechanic* Interests of the community — Their situation evincing the truth of the maxim contained in the *motto* of the Association, that, equally balanced, the *Merchant* and the *Mechanic* in being "*Just*," may "*Fear Not.*" The *Eagle* represents the Government of the United States — under whose fostering care *Commeree* and the *Mechanic Arts* have flourished. The *motto*, suspended from the *Eagle's beak*, points to our *duty*, and encourages us to persevere in it. On the right side of the Plate, the MECHANIC POWERS are represented

* This certificate has been superseded by others, — in an improved style of engraving, but hardly more appropriate in design.

in their individual and distinct operation. 1st. The *Balance* in weighing casks. 2d. The *Lever* in heaving off, or launching a *Boat*. 3d. The *Screw* in packing *Fish* in a hogshead. 4th. The *Wedge* in wedging up a Ship on the Stocks. 5th. The *Pulley* in raising a *knee* of Ship-Timber;—in which, 6th. The *Wheel* is assisting.—On the left side the finished effect of these powers is shewn in a *Ship* under sail; and an elegant and spacious *Edifice;* whilst the *Fine Arts* are represented by an *Equestrian Statue* of the late Excellent WASHINGTON in readiness to be placed on its *Pedestal*, which is erected near it, and on which is inscribed the initials of the name, the day of the death, and the age of the Man "*who united all hearts.*" The border of the achievement in *Green*, the color of the badges of the Association; which being the principal, and most useful color of nature, is considered as appropriate to an Association, designed to be so universal and beneficial. The *Seal* bears the Head of ARCHIMEDES, supported on the right by *Hope*, and on the left by *Charity*, and is ornamented with the banners of *Peace*. The *Bee-Hive* above it, and the *Cornupiæ* which issue therefrom, express that *Industry* will produce *Plenty*, and will enable us to discharge our duty to ourselves, our families, and our country; and to assist those of our unfortunate Fellow-Citizens who may need our *Charity*.

The secretary was "directed to send a person round, to collect subscriptions for a party on the water." [At the next meeting of the government it was voted, that, "considering the number of the association, it would be impracticable to have the contemplated water frolic."]

A letter was received from the president of the "General Society of Tradesmen and Mechanics of the city of New-York," in reply to one from President Hunewell, reciprocating his good wishes, and enclosing a list of their officers.

September 17. Quarterly meeting. The association decided to have a public festival in December, and eight members were joined to the government as a committee of arrangements.

There is no record of government meetings for September, October, November, and December; but several blank leaves stand between the record of the last quarterly meeting and that of the annual meeting.

December 17. Annual meeting at the Old State House. The record begins thus:—"On motion, voted that the —— article of the constitution"

[Here is a blank of half a page.]

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—

Jonathan Hunewell, *President.*
Benjamin Russell, *Vice-President.*
David Messinger,
Jonas S. Bass,
Jonathan Kilton,
Joseph Lovering,
Gershom Spear,
David West, *Treasurer.*
John Cotton, *Secretary.* *
Oliver Johonnot,
James Phillips,
John M. Lane,
Thomas W. Sumner,
*Trustees.*

After the ordinary business of the meeting, the association, accompanied by John Adams, ex-president of the United States, several clergymen, and other guests, proceeded to Faneuil Hall, and spent the remainder of the day in the convivialities then customary on similar occasions.

Fifty persons were balloted for and admitted during the year, as follows:—

Samuel Davis, Plymouth, Goldsmith.
James Amblard, Tailor.
Michael Roulstone, Glazier.
Andrew Roulstone, Charlestown, Wheelwright.
Joseph Bass, Upholsterer.
Josiah Willard, Windsor-Chair-maker.
Levi Goodridge, Housewright.
John Clark, Tobacconist.
Joseph Starr, Shipwright.
Thomas Benford, Bricklayer.
Abraham Edwards, Painter.
Nathaniel Patten, Ropemaker.
Nathaniel Tripp, Sailmaker.
Benjamin Hale, Sailmaker.
Joseph Jones, Sailmaker.
Joseph Hudson, Sailmaker.
Elisha Hunt, Housewright.
Martin Kennog, Baker.
David Vinal, Chaise-maker.
Francis Ingraham, Paper-stainer.
Benjamin Clark, Cooper.
James Pollock, Bricklayer.
Nathaniel Knapp, Newburyport, Caulker.
James Brewer, Blacksmith.
Joseph Abrams, Boat-builder.
Edward Scott, Windsor-chair-maker.
William Mills, Housewright.
Lydy Harris, Watertown, Cord-wainer.
Stephen Smith, Cooper.
Thomas Barry, Cooper.
James Washburn, Caulker and Graver.
John Andrews, Sailmaker.
Frederick Gilbert, Baker.
Jared Carel, Clock-maker.
John Bannister, Cooper.
James B. Marston, Painter.
David Goodwin, Charlestown, Housewright.
Lucas Jennison, Caulker and Graver.
Samuel Drew, Brass-founder.
Smith Woodward, Cooper.

* The record does not state that any secretary was elected. John Cotton was chosen to that office, or otherwise appointed to transact the business of a secretary, but his name does not appear in connection with it until after the appointment of an assistant secretary.

William Lamb, Tailor.
Isaiah Atkins, Tinman.
William Quinor, Baker.
Nehemiah Easterbrook, Distiller.
Christopher Smith, Rigger.
Benjamin Gray, Ropemaker.
Thomas Howe, Baker.
Joseph Revere, Founder.
Reuben Sanborn, Chair-maker.
James Henderson, Painter.

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# 1802.

At the first meeting of the newly-elected government, the president read the following communication:—

GENTLEMEN,—Another year has elapsed since I had the pleasure of seeing you here. At that time, I did not anticipate the honor which has since been conferred upon me.

During the last year Heaven has been pleased to smile upon us in many respects. We have, however, to regret the loss of two of our members by death. Nevertheless, when we consider the proportion of the community we number with us, our preservation should suitably affect our minds. The families of the deceased were not so fortunate as to be interested in our funeral fund,—of which none of the subscribers have died. When on this subject, I think it my duty to suggest the propriety of placing the moneys belonging to the funeral fund at interest.

It is not in my power to lay before you the state of our general funds. A committee on that subject has been chosen. They will report shortly, which report I shall lay before you. I can, however, confidently assure you, that the association has increased as fast, perhaps, as would be useful, and that our funds are also increasing, but not in like ratio.

I shall be happy to receive such communications from any of the associates as they shall think will tend to promote our mutual interests.

You, gentlemen, being the guardians of the society, will no doubt continue those exertions, which may be necessary to secure and promote its honor, respectability and increase, in which I shall always give my cheerful concurrence.

The treasurer was directed to invest the funeral fund "in public or private paper," such as he should think proper.

Messrs. Wright, Hunewell, Russell, Cotton, and Sumner were appointed a committee to procure "a plan of a building, and methods of raising money therefor."

February 18. Government meeting. "Voted, that the trustees approve of the progress the committee on the intended

hall have made;"—"that the trustees divide themselves into four squads, in order to collect subscriptions for said hall;"—and that Messrs. Sumner and Bolter be a committee "to prepare such plans of the intended edifice, as they can procure in season."

It was also voted, that, at the next meeting, the trustees make choice of an assistant secretary.

March 17. Government meeting. William Andrews was chosen assistant secretary.

March 18. Quarterly meeting. Fourteen candidates were admitted to membership. The meeting was adjourned to April 1; when the proceedings of the government in relation to the subscriptions for a hall were presented and approved. The government was requested, by a formal vote, "to take measures for augmenting the subscription, by receiving subscriptions for money, work, or materials; and that they make inquiry respecting some suitable building, which may be appropriate for a hall, or a spot of land, suitable to build a hall upon." It was "voted that a premium of Fifty dollars be offered for the best approved plan of a hall."

July 15. Government meeting. The president announced the death of John Mackintosh, a subscriber to the funeral fund,—and, agreeably to the constitution, a warrant was drawn on the treasurer for Forty dollars, in favor of Peter Mackintosh, a brother of the deceased, which the treasurer was directed to transmit, immediately, accompanied by a letter of condolence. This was the first death of a subscriber to the funeral fund.

A meeting of the subscribers to the funeral fund was soon after held, for the purpose of paying an assessment to replace the sum thus paid out from the fund. Fifty-four subscribers attended and paid the assessment; and voted that the mode of collecting similar assessments in future be referred to the board of trustees. The trustees, at a subsequent meeting, voted, that "on the decease of a subscriber to the funeral fund, it shall be the duty of the secretary to notify the subscribers thereto, that, in consequence of his decease, they are assessed —— cents, to make good the deficiency in said fund;

and, if any subscriber, so notified, shall neglect to pay the assessment in ten days from the date of the notification, he will not be considered as entitled to the benefit of the fund, till it shall be paid, to the president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, or one of the trustees, the residence of each of whom shall be mentioned in the notification."

A vote was also passed, at this meeting, "that the president and secretary be a committee to settle the business of the secretary, and arrange it with the assistant secretary."

The instructions to the secretary, concerning the collection of the funeral assessments were strictly obeyed by the assistant secretary, who reported his progress to the trustees at their meeting, September 9. At this meeting it was voted "that the assistant secretary be directed to call on Mr. Cotton's family for what money remained in Mr. Cotton's hands due the association, and pay the same to the treasurer." This is the *first* occurence of Mr. Cotton's name in connection with the office or duties of secretary.* By a subsequent record it appears that he left the country about this time, on a voyage to Europe.

The quarterly meeting of the association in September was held in the Senate chamber of the Old State House. One candidate for membership was balloted for and rejected;—another was referred to a committee. Eight members were added to the board of trustees as a committee of arrangements for the annual public festival to take place in December.

Two meetings of the trustees followed, with the transaction of no other important business than the passage of a vote, "That extraordinary cases be an exception to the vote passed on the subject of delinquencies in the payment of assessments to the funeral fund, September 9th, 1802."

December 16. Annual meeting. Officers for the ensuing year were elected, as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Jonathan Hunewell, *President.* | Francis Wright, *Treasurer.* |
| Benjamin Russell, *Vice-President.* | William Andrews, *Secretary.* |

* Except at a meeting in 1799, when he acted as secretary *pro tem.*

| | |
|---|---|
| James Phillips, | John M. Lane, |
| Daniel Messinger, | Josiah Snelling, |
| Jonas S. Bass, | Lemuel Gardner, |
| Thomas W. Sumner, | Samuel Perkins, |
| Oliver Johonnot, | *Trustees.* |

The committee on the secretary and treasurer's accounts, — B. Russell, S. Gore, and E. Larkin, — made a report, which was read and accepted. No intelligent report on the actual condition of the finances had been made for two years; and as this is the first report that presented facts in detail, it is thought worthy of being transcribed at length. It states, —

That it appears, by a report made the 21st of January, 1801, there was then in the hands of the treasurer, Two hundred and ninety-seven dollars and thirty cents, in the stock of Massachusetts, bearing an interest of five per cent. and Two hundred and eighty dollars in cash; —

That there were then in the hands of the secretary Sixteen dollars and seventy-seven cents; —

That there were then due from the members of the association One hundred and sixteen dollars and seventy-five cents. Thus stood the fiscal concerns of the association at the closing of 1800; —

That it appears, from the return accompanying the report, that the secretary received, in 1801, Two hundred and thirty-seven dollars and twenty-five cents; and that there were then due from the members, on account of entrance money and quarterages, One hundred and forty dollars. It also appears, by the receipts of the treasurer, that the above sum of $16 75, due from the secretary in 1800, and the above sum of $237 25, collected by the secretary in 1801, have been paid to the treasurer; —

That it further appears, that the secretary, Mr. John Cotton, received from January 1, 1802, to the 30th of August, 1802, when he went to Europe, One hundred and eighteen dollars and thirty-seven cents, (Thirty-seven dollars and eighty-seven cents of which was on account of the funeral fund,) which he has paid to the treasurer; —

That it also appears, that Mr. William Andrews, assistant secretary, has received from said 30th of August, 1802, to the present time, One hundred and forty-five dollars and sixty-seven cents and a half, which he has paid to the treasurer; —

That it further appears, that there are now due to the association, from members delinquent in entrance money and quarterages, Two hundred and eighty dollars and ninety cents, as will appear by the accompanying list, which the committee recommend to be read, as they are satisfied there would be but few delinquents, who knew they were indebted to the association; —

That it further appears, by the account of the treasurer, dated the 9th

inst. that there were then in his hands Six hundred and thirty-two dollars and sixty-three cents, in the stock of Massachusetts, bearing interest at five per cent. per annum; and Three hundred and six dollars and eleven cents, in cash; making the funds in his hands, including the state notes, Nine hundred and thirty-eight dollars and seventy-four cents; —

The committee further state, that the treasurer has received, on account of subscriptions to the funeral fund, One hundred and eighty-two dollars and thirty-four cents; and that he has paid on warrants drawn on him, Forty dollars to Peter Mackintosh, brother of the deceased subscriber John Mackintosh; and Forty dollars to the widow of Andrew Roath, also a subscriber; and that he has in his hands, on account of that fund, a balance of One hundred and two dollars and thirty-four cents. They also state, there are due from delinquent subscribers to the funeral fund, Twenty-eight dollars and fifty cents, as will appear by the list accompanying this report, which they recommend also may be read; as they feel confident that it is only requisite to a prompt payment of all the assessments towards this highly useful and benevolent fund, that the subscribers shall know they are delinquent.

Signed, BENJAMIN RUSSELL,
SAMUEL GORE,
EBENEZER LARKIN,
*Committee.*

The business having been finished, a procession was formed, and proceeded to Faneuil Hall, to partake of the annual festival. Among the guests on this occasion, were His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Sheriff of the county, Speaker of the House of Representatives, President of the Chamber of Commerce, President of the Board of Health, Rev. Messrs. Parker, Eckley, Freeman and Murray, the Selectmen of the town, &c.

Names of persons admitted in 1802: —

Joseph Dorr, Housewright.
Isaac Cushing, Housewright.
Levi Loring, Duxbury, Hatter.
Edward Goodwin, Lancaster, Cordwainer.
Horatio Gates Balric, Lancaster, Chaise-trimmer.
Charles Davies, Tinplate-worker.
John B. Hammatt, Upholsterer.
Joseph Fosdick, Sailmaker.
Edward Dorr, Newburyport, Headbuilder.
William M'Lennan, Rigger.
Daniel T. Lewis, Blacksmith.
Abel Crocker, Mason.
Daniel Badger, Founder.
Isaac Harris, Mast-maker.
Ebenezer Pratt, Housewright.
Thomas Whitmarsh, Housewright.
Elijah Leavitt, Housewright.
William Fenno, Housewright.
John Spear, jun. Blacksmith.
John Andrews, Blacksmith.

Samuel Hayden, Weymouth, Bricklayer.
Benjamin Bayley, Baker.
Hubbard Oliver, Tailor.
Edmund Hay, Cabinet-maker.
James Coltman, Brass-founder.
Samuel Gilbert, Printer.
Thomas Dean, Printer.
Martin Siders, Hairdresser.
Jonathan Harrington, Bricklayer.
Charles Clements, Housewright.
John Roulstone, Bookbinder.
John Benson, Lapidary and Optician.

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# 1803.

No matters of importance, beyond the arrangement of future meetings of the board, and the appointment of a committee on accounts, were brought up for action at the trustee meetings on the 13th of January and the — of February. At the session of the Legislature in January, an act was passed incorporating the Boston Bank. The trustees at their meeting in March, voted, "That the treasurer invest One thousand five hundred dollars of the fund of the association in the stock of that bank." This vote was ratified at the quarterly meeting of the association in March. It would seem, however, that the available fund of the association was inadequate for the purpose: for, at the same meeting, it was voted, "That the government be a committee to lay such assessments on the members, as will make up what is deficient in the fund for the payment of the bank shares."

At the same meeting it was voted, "That the government be a committee to consider the expediency of laying a fine on absent members, and of raising the sum for admittance, and quarterly assessments, and report," &c.

The next meeting of the trustees was held on the 6th of April. It was voted that an assessment of Two dollars be laid on each member of the association, to meet the subscription to the shares in the bank; and the secretary was directed to notify every member of the vote, and request immediate payment.

It was decided to be inexpedient to lay a fine on absent members, or to raise the quarterly assessment. The subject of increasing the fee for admission was postponed.

Another effort was made, May 11, to procure an act of incorporation. Messrs. Hunewell, Russell, Wright, Gore, Kilton, and I. P. Davis were appointed a committee for that purpose, with authority to pursue such measures as they might deem expedient,—all expenses they might incur to be indemnified by the association.

At their meeting in June, the trustees voted "to recommend to the association that, in future, all members admitted should pay Five dollars. This vote was taken up at the next quarterly meeting, but there was no final action in regard to it.

The proceedings of the trustees in relation to incorporation were approved. A committee was appointed to investigate the cause why a large number of certificates, made out for persons admitted as members, had not been taken up.

At the trustee meeting, July 6, a question of some interest was presented for decision. One of the subscribers to the funeral fund, had then recently deceased,—being delinquent in the payment of the assessments previously laid. An application was made by his surviving relatives for the sum to which they would have been entitled, had he complied with the terms of the constitution. The matter was referred to a committee, consisting of Messrs. B. Russell, D. Messinger, O. Johonnot, and T. W. Sumner. The committee made a detailed report, August 3,—reciting the provisions of the constitution,—the fact that the member had always neglected, or refused to pay the assessments when requested by the secretary,—and that he had also, for two years and a half, neglected to pay his assessments as a member of the association, though repeatedly notified of his delinquency by the secretary. The committee, therefore, in view of these facts, felt it their duty to report that the relatives of the deceased were not entitled to the benefit of the funeral fund. This report was accepted by the government, and was approved by the association at its next meeting.

A quarterly meeting was held, September 15. The president reported that a bill for incorporating the association, had passed the House of Representatives but was defeated in the Senate. The committee was requested to pursue the subject till the act could be obtained.

The association voted, that all members admitted previous to January, 1804, should be subject to the assessment of Two dollars, to make good the sum required for installment on the shares in the Boston Bank;—and also, that all members admitted after the first of January, 1804, should pay the sum of Five dollars, as the fee for admission.

Ten members were added to the trustees as a committee of arrangements for the annual festival in December.

A most unaccountable negligence in paying the assessment for the bank shares, still pervaded the association. At the trustee meeting, October 5, the trustees divided themselves into committees, to call personally on the delinquent members, and demand the payment. These committees met, November 3, (as a board of trustees,) and made their several reports, from which it appeared that seventy-four of the members had paid, and sundry others had made promises. The committee directed that the names of Daniel Raymond, Edmund Hay, John Cornish, William Jenkins, Edward B. Walker, William Quinor, Elijah Loring, William Hichborn, Peter Gilman, Elisha Tower, John Bosson, and Jonathan Emmons, be erased from the books and no longer considered members of the association. Further time was allowed for the action of the committees.

December —. Annual meeting. The report of the committee on the accounts of the secretary and treasurer exhibited the following statement of the funds, viz:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Fifteen shares in the Boston Bank, | $1,500 00 |
| Dividend due on said shares, | 60 00 |
| Advance of stock, 20 per cent. | 300 00 |
| Outstanding debts, presumed to be available, | 629 37½ |
| | $2,489 37½ |

The outstanding debts consisted of—

| | |
|---|---|
| Fees for admission (not paid,) | $29 50 |
| Assessments of Two dollars on each member, to pay installments on bank shares, | 260 00 |
| Due to the funeral fund, | 6 37½ |
| Quarterly assessments, | 333 50 |
| | $629 37½ |

The report concluded with some very seasonable and proper remarks on the negligence of members in complying with the requisitions of the constitution, and an earnest appeal to their sense of the duty they had voluntarily assumed.

The record says, "the articles of the constitution were read, after which the association proceeded to the choice of officers." The following members were then elected officers for the ensuing year:—

Jonathan Hunewell, *President.*
Benjamin Russell, *Vice-President.*
Francis Wright, *Treasurer.*
John B. Hammatt, *Secretary.*

Daniel Messinger,
James Phillips,
Thomas W. Sumner,
Josiah Snelling,
Samuel Perkins,
Lemuel Gardner,
William Alexander,
James Dawson,
Daniel Tuttle,
*Trustees.*

After the usual incidental business, the association marched in procession to Faneuil Hall, to partake of the annual festival. The guests on this occasion were the Lieutenant-Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Treasurer and Secretary of the Commonwealth, Selectmen and Town Clerk of Boston, Sheriff of Suffolk, Rev. Messrs. Kirkland, Emerson, Baldwin, and Freeman, several masters of the public schools, and some of the principal merchants.

Persons admitted during the year:—

Samuel D. Hallowell, Boat-builder.
William Breed, Baker.
Moses Gardner, Carpenter.
Joseph W. Homer.
Ebenezer Davenport, Dorchester, Windsor-chair-maker.
Peter Burr, Tailor.
Jonathan Kilham, Tailor.
Elijah Mears, Tailor.
William Jenkins, Tinplate-worker.
Jonathan Turner, Hairdresser.
Joseph Witherbee, Bricklayer.
George Sutherland, Jeweler.
Henry Morgan, Bricklayer.
William Bennet, Stone-cutter.
Asher Benjamin, Housewright.
Daniel Johnson, Housewright.
John Ridgeway Gould, Bookbinder.
James Scott, Ropemaker.
John Binney, Chocolate-manufacturer.
Asa Lewis, Housewright.
Zaccheus Whitney, Housewright.
William Bacon, Housewright.
John Wyer, Housewright.
Simeon Skillings, Carver.
Frederick W. Major, Block and Pump-maker.
James Cook, Stone-cutter.
Samuel Dow, Blacksmith.
Benjamin Park, Printer.

# 1804.

The first government meeting was held January 26. It does not appear that any business was transacted, except to fix the times and places for the succeeding monthly meetings, and the appointment of committees on accounts, compensation to the secretary, and certain inquiries respecting candidates for membership. At the next meeting, February 23, some of the committees reported, — sundry accounts were examined and approved, — the secretary was directed to report the names of those who had not paid the assessment for the bank shares, — and a committee was instructed to report upon the constitution, and the numbers necessary to be printed, and to report at the quarterly meeting.

At the quarterly meeting, March 15, "the report of the committee on the amendment of the constitution was read, debated by sections, and was accepted with amendments." This constitution, prepared by a committee of which no record was made, was copied (but not by the secretary then in office) into "the book of constitutions." It does not differ in any *essential* particulars from that which preceded it, and which had been the fundamental law of the association. The name of the association was changed and to be thereafter "The Massachusetts Mechanic Association;" — the annual meeting for the choice of officers, was to be on the third Thursday of September, on which occasion there should be a public festival, unless otherwise voted at a regular meeting of the association; — the officers, when convened as a board, were to be styled "The Government of the Massachusetts Mechanic Association; — and the fee for membership was *fixed* at Five dollars. The government were requested to contract for the printing of the constitution; and it was voted that each member be entitled to a copy, on the payment of Twelve cents and a half, and that every new member should pay Twenty-five cents for a copy.

The business transacted at the government meetings in March, April, May, and June, consisted of efforts to secure

the collection of assessments from delinquent members, and action on the applications of new candidates.

June —. Quarterly meeting. The subject of a public festival having been mentioned, it was voted, that there should "be no public festival in September next, — that being the annual meeting for the choice of officers.

No business was transacted at the government meetings in July, August, and September, except the appointment of a committee to audit the accounts of the secretary and treasurer.

By the provisions of the constitution adopted in March, the annual meeting for the choice of officers was thereafter to be held in September, and accordingly the election took place on the 20th of that month. The committee on the accounts of the secretary and treasurer made a report in the usual form, from which it appeared that the money collected by the secretary had been paid to the treasurer; — that the total receipts of the nine months preceding, was —

| | |
|---|---|
| On account of the permanent fund, . | $478 87 |
| " funeral fund, . . | 191 12 |
| | $669 99 |

And that the treasurer had paid out —

| | |
|---|---|
| On warrants, from the permanent fund, | $156 94 |
| " " funeral fund, | 86 75 |

Leaving a balance in favor of the society —

| | |
|---|---|
| On account of the permanent fund, . | $284 77 |
| " " funeral fund, . . | 104 37 |

And that the permanent fund consisted of fifteen bank shares, amounting at par to Fifteen hundred dollars; — of Two hundred and eighty-four dollars and seventy-seven cents, on hand; and Six hundred and four dollars and seventy-five cents, then due from the members.

The officers were chosen as follows, viz: —

Jonathan Hunewell, *President.* Francis Wright, *Treasurer.*
Benjamin Russell, *Vice-President.* Samuel Gilbert, *Secretary.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Josiah Snelling. | Daniel Tuttle, |
| Lemuel Gardner, | Samuel Todd, |
| Samuel Perkins, | Charles Clement, |
| William Alexander, | David Cobb, |
| James Dawson, | *Trustees.* |

Many members were dissatisfied with the vote passed at the preceding meeting, to dispense with a public festival; and Mr. J. Phillips brought up the subject by a motion that there should be a festival in December. A long and rather exciting discussion followed, which ended by a reference of the whole matter to the government, — giving them power to decide upon the question as they might deem expedient. As a matter of course, the government proceeded, at its meeting in October, to consider the subject; and after a long discussion, in which all the arguments that had been produced, both for and against a festival, were considered, it was resolved, that a committee (Benjamin Russell, Josiah Snelling, and Francis Wright,) should prepare a subscription paper, and direct the messenger to apply, personally, to all the members, and obtain the signature of every one who was in favor of a public festival in December.

At this meeting, the secretary informed the government, that he had carefully examined the books of the association, and found that *sixty-nine members had never signed the constitution*, many of whom had paid assessments and received all the benefits of the institution; while others had paid nothing. He was directed to expunge the names of all those who had not paid any thing, and to obtain, with all possible convenience, the signatures of the others.

The secretary also requested the government to give him some direction, under authority of which he could make vigorous exertions for the collection of all debts due from the members. It was resolved, that he be *directed* to make out all bills against those who owe more than four quarterly assessments, and to collect them in the most easy and expeditious manner.

The next government meeting was held November 15. The chairman of the committee, to whom was referred the

subject of a public festival, reported that the messenger should present to every member of the association, a subscription paper, headed as follows, viz: —

We, the subscribers, agree to dine on the third Thursday in December next, and to pay for the ticket of admission $3.

The report was accepted, and the messenger was instructed, "to obtain the signatures of the present members of the government, first — then of the past officers — and to spare no pains to see all the members of the association, *that all might subscribe, who had an inclination*, — and to make a return of his proceedings by Thursday evening next, when the government voted to be in session to hear the result.

Agreeably to their vote, the government held an extra meeting, November 22. Mr. B. Russell moved, as a preliminary step, that before receiving the messenger's report, it should be determined what number of members should have signed the subscription, in order to authorize further proceedings. The motion was carried, and it was decided that *One hundred and forty-six*, — being a majority of all the members living in Boston, — should be required for that purpose. On examining the subscription-book, it was found that only seventy members had subscribed. The number not being sufficient to justify any preparation for a festival on the part of the government, — "to show the members of the association that the government had left nothing undone which ought to have been done," the secretary was directed to call a special meeting of the association, to which the whole subject was referred. For some reason, which does not appear on the record, the proposed meeting did not take place at the time appointed; but, at the government meeting, December 6, a petition, requesting the government "to call a meeting on special business," signed by James Phillips, Joseph Lovering, James Eunson, John Cotton, Moses Eayres, James Barry, Peter Mackintosh, Zachariah Hicks, Daniel Messinger, and Timothy Pease, jun. was presented; and a warrant was immediately issued, directing the secretary to call the meeting, agreeably to the petition. The meeting was accordingly

held, — notice having been given in all the newspapers, — on the next evening, December 7.

When the meeting had been called to order, the president made a verbal statement of all the proceedings of the government in reference to a public festival. A long and animated discussion followed; after which, it was voted, by a small majority, to reconsider the vote passed at the quarterly meeting in June. The question was then directly put, — "*Will the society agree to dine together this year?*" And this was also decided in the affirmative, by a small majority.

It was then voted, that the members of the government, with thirteen other members, be a committee of arrangements. This committee met, pursuant to instructions, the next evening; and appointed the following sub-committees: —

To collect subscriptions to the festival, two members from each ward of the town: —

To contract for and to provide the dinner, Deacon Wright, Captains Phillips and Smith: —

To contract for and provide the liquors, Captains Smith and Todd, and Mr. Eunson: — [It was voted, that this committee should procure only one kind of wine, and that should be Madeira.]

To provide music, Messrs. Elijah Mears and James B. Marston: —

To provide toasts and songs, Messrs. B. Russell, James Phillips, and John Cotton: —

For giving invitations, the government: —

To decorate Faneuil Hall, twelve members.

At a second meeting of the committee, a sub-committee of three was appointed to attend to the warming of the hall; and Mr. Daniel Tuttle was appointed a committee to procure cigars, &c. On motion of Mr. B. Russell, the government was excused from the duty of giving invitations to the dinner, and the service was immediately performed by the whole committee. It was unanimously voted that the following be invited, viz: —

Governor Strong, Lieutenant-Governor Edward H. Robbins, the Sheriff of Suffolk, John Adams, Ex-president of the United States, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Treasurer and Secretary of the Commonwealth, Selectmen and Town-Clerk, Town Treasurer, Presi-

dent of the Board of Health, three schoolmasters according to seniority, three clergymen, and Mr. George Wheeler.

At a third meeting of the committee, "Isaiah Atkins was appointed a committee for procuring cigars, &c. in the room of Daniel Tuttle, declined."

"Deacon Wright, chairman of the committee for providing the dinner, reported, that they had agreed with Mrs. Marean to provide the same in a genteel manner, on the following conditions, viz: — For 130 plates, at 10s. — for 140, at 9s. 6d. — for 150, at 9s. — as the case may be, — and half that price for the musicians, — each table to be furnished in the following manner: —

First course — Soups — *Boiled* — Turkeys (with oyster sauce,) Fowls, and Legs Pork — Beef alamode.

Second course — *Roasted* — Beef, Turkeys, Chickens, Pigs, Ducks, Geese, &c.

Third course — *Baked* — Chicken pies with Oysters in them — Beef-steak pies — Plum puddings, Pies, Tarts, &c.

Roots, vegetables, celery, &c."

To save some unnecessary repetitions, and to preserve unbroken the continuity of these proceedings concerning the public festival, the action of the government, on other matters, at their meetings, November 22, and December 6, have been passed over. At the first of these meetings, a letter from the secretary of the Providence Association of Mechanics and Manufacturers, requesting a copy of the laws and regulations concerning the funeral fund, was laid before the government, — to which the secretary reported the following answer: —

*Boston, Nov.* 21, 1804.

Sir, — I duly received yours of the 29th ult. and laid it before the government of the Massachusetts Mechanic Association. In consequence, I am directed to transmit to you a copy of our constitution, wherein you will find all the regulations in force on the subject of the funeral fund. In the execution of these regulations the government has not experienced any difficulty. The practice has been, whenever a subscriber to the fund has deceased, for the president, vice-president, and two of the trustees to notify the treasurer of the decease, and to direct him to pay the widow or orphans of the deceased the sum of forty dollars. The treasurer usually waits on them in person, and presents the money, with such consolatory

observations as the nature of the case may seem to require. The treasurer is then indemnified by a warrant, regularly drawn. It has been our custom, in making new assessments, to supply any deficiency in the funds, to make them sufficient to cover also the expenses of collection. Some inconvenience has at times arisen from the neglect of subscribers to pay their assessments within the time prescribed by the regulations. By this neglect, it will be seen, they forfeit the right of their families to any benefit from the fund. When this delinquency has been known by the families, on application for, or in expectation of, the usual benefit, it has been found extremely painful to withhold from them, in their distress, the wonted aid, and to disappoint their expectations. The custom, under these circumstances, has been, if the delinquency has not been flagrant, to deduct it from the forty dollars, and present the balance. . . .

The government directs me to present, through you, to the government and members of the Providence Mechanic Association, its best wishes for their happiness and prosperity; — and to request frequent renewals of correspondence. In the execution of this part of my duty, I derive great pleasure, as it gives me the opportunity of assuring you of the respect and esteem with which, I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

SAMUEL GILBERT, *Secretary.*

To Mr. Joseph Balch,
*Secretary of the Providence Mechanic Association.*

At the next meeting, December 6, Mr. Russell "called up the business relating to the subscriptions for the building of the Mechanics' Hall, and [moved] that their names should be recorded on the journal, for future reference;" — but no action appears to have been taken on the subject.

Quarterly meeting, December 20. Having finished all incidental business, the association formed a procession, and, with their guests, moved to Faneuil Hall, where, according to the record, "the company sat down to an elegant entertainment, which was intermixed with a great number of songs and sentiments — and the whole terminated with much pleasure and hilarity, to the great satisfaction of all. The hall was handsomely decorated, and '*dull care*' was completely banished — though the company did not forget to whom they were indebted for the privilege of meeting together in mirth and festivity like a band of brothers. They retired at an early hour." *

* The guests invited on this occasion were His Excellency Caleb Strong; His Honor Edward H. Robbins; the Sheriff of Suffolk county; State Treasurer and

Members admitted in 1804:—

Samuel B. Jarvis, Housewright.
Thomas Adams, Housewright.
John Marston, Block and Pump-maker.
Silas Niles, Charlestown, Housewright.
Abner Atherton, Dedham, Currier.
Luke Richardson, Hairdresser.
Joseph N. Howe, Ropemaker.
John Doggett, Roxbury, Carver and Gilder.
John Palmer, Wheelwright.
Samuel Tuttle, Tailor.
Gedney King, Mathematical-Instrument-maker.
Samuel Beals, Coppersmith.
James Eunson, Cooper.
Thomas Wells, Bookbinder.
John Webb, Bookbinder.
Stephen Fairbanks, Saddler and Harness-maker.
Gerry Fairbanks, Hatter.
Joseph Batson, Stucco-worker.
Levi Stearns, Bricklayer.

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# 1805.

The government for the first three months was occupied chiefly in settling the bills for the festival, and in devising measures for collecting the debts of delinquent members. The sale of tickets for the festival fell short of the expense by more than Fifty dollars.

A donation of Five dollars to the funeral fund was received from Gen. John Winslow, and duly acknowledged, in a letter from the secretary.

Quarterly meeting, March 21. The president informed the association that he had received a donation of Five dollars to the funeral fund, from Major George Blanchard, and the secretary was directed to acknowledge the receipt of it, and to express the thanks of the members, in a letter to the donor.

Government meetings were held April 10, May 16, and June 13, when the subject of delinquency on the part of many members was again the principal matter of action.

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Secretary; John Adams, Ex-President of the United States; the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts; the Selectmen, Town Treasurer, and Town Clerk of Boston; the President of the Board of Health; three Schoolmasters, according to seniority; Harrison Gray Otis, Esq. Mr. George Wheeler; and four clergymen, viz. Rev. William E. Channing, Rev. J. S. J. Gardiner, Rev. Francis Matignon, Rev. John Cheverus.

The secretary presented a list of fifty-seven names of delinquent members. The whole amount of the delinquency was Two hundred and eighty-one dollars and eighty cents. The list was examined by the government; a vote was taken on each member seperately, and *sixteen* were immediately erased from the books; the other *forty-one* were postponed for subsequent action.

A new committee was appointed to prepare a petition for an act of incorporation, and to present it to the Legislature at its approaching session. This committee reported at the meeting in June, that a petition had been prepared and placed in the hands of the president. The president stated that no business of a private character would be transacted during the then present session of the Legislature, and the friends of the measure thought it best to retain the petition till the winter session.

Quarterly meeting, June 20. A motion was made that there should *not* be a public festival at the annual meeting in September, — which, after debate, was carried in the affirmative by a large majority. This was not surprizing or unexpected. The trouble and anxiety with which the getting up of the last preceding festival was attended, were quite sufficient to defeat any attempt to have another. A memorandum attached to the record of this vote, states "*the expenses incurred thereby* [the festival] *are not yet discharged* — many members, who dined on that day, having neglected to pay the aditional assessment of Fifty cents."

The records of the next three government meetings exhibit but little that is worthy of transcribing. The names of *thirteen* members were stricken from the books on account of obstinate delinquency. One was discharged at his own request, after paying all assessments that had been laid.

Annual meeting, September 19. The report of the committee on the accounts of the secretary and treasurer was presented and accepted. It states that the secretary had received, since the last report, in September, 1804, $459 12, which he had paid to the treasurer; —

| | |
|---|---|
| That the treasurer had received on account of the permanent fund, | $520 62 |
| Balance of last year, | 284 77 |
| | $805 39 |
| That he had paid on various warrants, | 167 08 |
| Leaving in his hands, | $638 31 |
| That on account of the funeral fund the treasurer had received, | 81 75 |
| And had paid out on warrants, | 80 00 |
| And that there remained in his hands a balance of | $106 12 |

The report stated that there was due to the association, on account of assessments for bank shares, funeral fund, quarterly assessments, entrance fees, &c. $358 25.

The whole amount of the funds was Twenty-four hundred and ninety-six dollars and fifty-six cents.

A letter was communicated from the secretary, in which he declined to be a candidate for re-election.

The following officers were elected, viz: —

Jonathan Hunewell, *President.* Francis Wright, *Treasurer.*
Benjamin Russell, *Vice-President.* Thomas Wells, *Secretary.*

| | |
|---|---|
| William Alexander, | David Cobb, |
| James Dawson, | James Barry, |
| Daniel Tuttle, | John D. Howard, |
| Samuel Todd, | John Cotton, |
| Charles Clement, | *Trustees.* |

The first monthly meeting of the newly-elected government was held October 10. The secretary made a report of his proceedings in relation to the assessments for the funeral fund, which were approved. The same officer was further instructed concerning delinquent members.

At the next meeting, November 7, the president introduced the subject of incorporation. A committee was chosen to determine on the most suitable course to be pursued in order to obtain the desired act. This committee consisted of Benjamin Russell, Francis Wright, and Daniel Cobb. The report of the committee, made at the meeting, December 5, recommends, — "That the petition be renewed, and signed by

the present government, and that the president present it on the second day of the next session of the General Court; — that the members of the Legislature, who are also members of the association, be requested to use every exertion to procure the passage of the act prayed for; — that two hundred copies of the constitution be distributed among the members of the Legislature; — that six committees, of seven members each, be appointed to attend daily, in rotation, on the floor of the State-house, to use their utmost influence with the members of the Legislature, that a charter may be obtained at the next session." The report was accepted, and the several committees appointed in conformity thereto.

A committee, previously appointed to transfer the records and other papers from the late to the present secretary, and also to report on the compensation to the past secretary, made a report. On the subject of compensation, the committee recommend the payment of the usual sum of Twenty dollars, and "as the duty of Mr. Gilbert, while secretary, was more arduous than usual, and as he has exerted himself greatly for the benefit of the association, they *recommend* that he be allowed a further sum for his extra services, as the government may see fit. On motion of B. Russell, it was voted, "that a piece of plate of the value of Thirty dollars be presented to Mr. Gilbert, for his services and extra services as secretary."

The vice-president announced the death of Richard Hunewell, a member of the association; and stated that the customary appropriation from the funeral fund had been made to the family of the deceased, and that the president of the association, in compliance with the will of his deceased father, declined receiving it, and requested that it might be returned to the fund whence it came; in consequence of which no assessment had been laid on the subscribers to the fund.

Quarterly meeting, December 19. Z. Hicks proposed the following vote: — "That the members of the association, individually, consider themselves bound to use their exertions, in any laudable and decent way, to promote the incorpora-

tion of the society;" — and his motion obtained a unanimous vote.

Members admitted in 1805: —

Caswell Beal, Tailor.
Thomas C. Hayward, Chair-maker.
George Gore, Painter.
David C. Moseley, Saddler.
James C. Edmands, Bricklayer.
John Goodwin, Charlestown, Housewright.
Samuel Singleton, Block-maker.
John Bridge, Cabinet-maker.

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# 1806.

Government meeting, January 2. The following petition for incorporation, having been signed by all the members of the government, was delivered to the president, (who was then a member of the House of Representatives) to be presented to the Legislature.

To the Honorable the Senate, and the Honorable the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The petition of the subscribers, agents in behalf of the society establish- in Boston, called the Massachusetts Mechanic Association, respectfully showeth: —

That the said society has been established upwards of ten years; — that it was formed solely for the purposes of establishing a fund for charitable purposes; — for the encouragement of useful and ingenious mechanics; — and for the improvement of American manufactures; — That in the prosecution of these objects they have, in some degree, been successful; and they entertain the opinion that their success would be increased by an act of incorporation: — They therefore most respectfully solicit the attention of the Honorable Legislature to their origin, object, and present situation, and pray that they may be placed on an equal footing with associations of the same nature in other states, and with associations in Massachusetts, — which, they humbly conceive, are neither more charitable or patriotic than the one to which your petitioners belong, — by such an act of incorporation as will enable them to do and act as other bodies corporate, on such conditions, and with such restrictions and limitations, as your Honors, in your justice and wisdom, shall deem fit and proper. And, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

February 6. A petition was presented from the widow of Peter Cade, asking for temporary relief. In compliance with

the report of a committee to which the petition was referred, the sum of Ten dollars was presented to Mrs. Cade.

A letter from S. Jenks was read, containing a request that the government would grant him a letter of recommendation, or certificate, as a companion for traveling, — which was referred to a committee. The committee, at a subsequent meeting, reported adversely to Mr. Jenks's request.

March 6. The committee appointed to procure a piece of plate, to be presented to Samuel Gilbert, exhibited a silver pitcher with the inscription, — "Presented by the Government of the Mechanic Association to Mr. Samuel Gilbert, as a compensation for his faithful and extra services, while their secretary." — Signed by the president and vice-president.

Quarterly meeting, March 20. The president announced that an act for the incorporation of the association had been obtained, after a trial of ten years. The act was then read by the vice-president, who said the society was under great obligations to the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, for their exertions in behalf of the institution. The following is a copy of the act: —

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

*In the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and six.*

An act to incorporate *Jonathan Hunewell*, and others, into a society by the name of the MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION.

Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same*, That *Jonathan Hunewell*, and all those who have, or may hereafter associate with him, be, and they hereby are incorporated and made a body politic, by the name of the "*Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association*," and by that name shall be known in law, and shall be capable of suing and being sued, and shall have power to have and keep a common seal, to make by-laws for the election of their members and officers, the collection of assessments, the regulation of their meetings, and the appropriation of their funds for charitable uses; but shall not have power to make by-laws and regulations for any other purposes whatsoever.

Sec. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That the said corporation shall have power, and shall be capable in law to purchase, have, hold, use, take, possess, retain, and enjoy in fee-simple, or otherwise, any personal or real estate in this commonwealth, not exceeding the value of Forty thousand

dollars in real estate, and Ten thousand dollars in personal estate, and the same to sell, alien, and dispose of at their pleasure.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That the annual income of said corporation shall only be employed for the purpose of relieving the distresses of unfortunate mechanics and their families, to promote inventions and improvements in the mechanic arts, by granting premiums for said inventions and improvements, and to assist young mechanics with loans of money.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That the said corporation shall be and continue for and during the term of ten years, unless the Legislature shall within that time see fit to dissolve the same.

SEC. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That *Jonathan Hunewell*, *Benjamin Russell*, and *Francis Wright* be, and they are hereby, authorized and empowered to call the first meeting of the said corporation, by giving notice of the time and place thereof in two of the newspapers printed in Boston, thirty days at least before the time of such meeting.

*In the House of Representatives, March* 7, 1806. This bill having had three several readings, passed to be enacted.

TIMOTHY BIGELOW, *Speaker.*

*In Senate, March* 8, 1806. This bill having had two several readings, passed to be enacted. H. G. OTIS, *President.*

*March* 8, 1806. By the Governor approved. CALEB STRONG.

True copy.—Attest, JOHN AVERY, *Secretary.*

April 9. Government meeting. No business but the passing of a few bills.

May 1. The following letter was presented, read, and ordered to be placed on the record: —

*Boston, April* 9, 1806.

*To the President, Vice-President, Trustees, and Members of the Massachusetts Mechanic Association.*

GENTLEMEN, — When societies are formed upon philanthropic and public-spirited motives, tending to improve the domestic *arts*, — encourage *genius*, — and extending the hand of liberality to the *unfortunate*, — to wipe the tear from the cheek of *affliction*, — and teach the depressed heart again to *rejoice*, — they speak a nation, not merely in a state of *civilization*, but rapidly advancing to a high degree of *refinement*.

Such is the society to which I have been so happy as to be a servant; such is the society, who have done me the honor to reward my poor services with a testimony of approbation, as grateful to my feelings as it is demonstrative of their munificence.

Be pleased, Gentlemen, to accept my warmest acknowledgements for your invaluable present, which I shall, through life, guard as a *treasure*; and, at my death, bequeath to my children as a *sacred relic*. Permit me

to offer my most fervent wishes, that *health*, *peace*, and *prosperity* may await the society, *collectively* and *individually*, — and that, under their protection, the *arts* may *flourish*, and the artizans of New-England speedily arrive to such a degree of *excellence* in their several crafts, as shall be unrivaled even in *Europe*.

I am, Gentlemen, with due respect, your obliged humble servant,

SAMUEL GILBERT.

## MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION.

The first meeting under the act of incorporation was held at the Central School-house, May 2, 1806.

Paul Revere was chosen moderator of the meeting. He took the chair, and read the act of incorporation, pursuant to which the association was now convened.

After the reading had been finished, the association proceeded to choose the proper officers, and all those elected at the previous annual meeting in September, 1805, were unanimously chosen.

It was then voted, that the government be a committee "to draft constitutional rules and articles, for the regulation of the society, agreeably to the act of incorporation;" — and that "they be requested to call a special meeting of the association when they are ready to report."

The committee, having drawn up a report, called a meeting, to which it was submitted, on the 19th of June. The draft of the constitution underwent a few alterations and amendments, and was then unanimously adopted. The most important change was that which provided that every person thereafter admitted a member should pay Five dollars to the general fund, as an entrance fee, and Two dollars to the funeral fund.

The government was requested to procure a sufficient number of copies of the constitution, as now accepted, *printed*, with the names and professions of the members, printed therewith, and that each member be entitled to one copy, and be assessed —— cents, to defray the expense thereof.

The government, at its meeting in July, voted, "That the committee [appointed to print the constitution] cause a collection of the arrearages, due from delinquent members, to be

made, by such ways and means as they in their wisdom shall see fit to devise, and likewise endeavor to ascertain who consider themselves *now* members of the association, and what names ought to be omitted in the new printed books."

The next government meeting was held August 28. The following is an exact transcript of the record of that meeting: —

"The government having convened, the vice-president took the chair, read to them a letter which he had received from the president of the association, wherein the president regrets that it will not be in his power to be at the meeting this evening, as he was about commencing a journey to the eastern country; but trusts that his friends would excuse him when he assured them that nothing but a regard for his health, which required his particular attention, would have induced him to be away at this time; with presenting his respectful regards to the government, he however assured them that on the evening of the meeting, his thoughts would be with them; that, at certain hours, in the course of the evening, he should take a glass of the best Madeira, to the health, prosperity, and happiness of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, — to the government then in session, — and likewise to the friends of said association, and retire to rest.

"The government, gratified with the attention of the president, and with the sentiments contained in his letter, voted to have a minute thereof placed on the records of the society, and, at stated times in the course of the evening, adjourned their business for a few minutes, to drink to the renewed health, prosperity, and safe return of the president, and with reciprocal harmony to join with him in the sentiments contained in his letter."

September 18. Quarterly meeting. A full report of all the proceedings of the government respecting delinquent members was submitted and approved. The report excited some inquiries and some indignant remarks. The names of all delinquents were repeatedly called for; but the reading of them was objected to, and finally the whole matter was left to the action of the government.

There was a meeting of the government, September 25, at which no business was transacted; and another, October 30, when the common subject of delinquent members was again taken up. The names remaining on the list, previously prepared by the secretary, were taken by the president and trustees, each of whom proposed to call, personally, on the delinquents, and obtain, if possible, a direct answer, whether they wished to retain their relation to the society.

"At half past seven o'clock, Capt. T. W. Sumner and Mr. Joab Hunt entered and addressed the president, stating that they came as a committee from the Housewrights' Society, (who were then in session at the house of Capt. Lincoln,) to wait on the government, and inform them that, at the hour of eight, the Society of Housewrights would have the pleasure of drinking health and prosperity to the government of the Massachusetts Mechanic Association. — This communication was received with pleasure, and Messrs. Wright and Cotton were chosen a committee to wait on the Housewrights' Society in return, to thank them for their respectful attention, and inform them that, at the hour appointed, the government of the Mechanic Association would cordially reciprocate with them in drinking *Success to the Society of Housewrights.*

"Voted, That the above be recorded." *

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* This society was instituted in 1804. The constitution, printed in 1805, contains the names of sixty-four persons, about half of whom were also members of our association. Many of the provisions of their constitution were similar to ours, but some of them were more liberal, and others more stringent. The fee for admission was Twenty dollars. The quarterly assessments Fifty cents. On the decease of a member, his family were to receive from the fund Thirty dollars. If, by any accident, a member should break a limb, he was entitled to receive Twenty dollars. If a member should suffer in his property by fire, or, in the course of his business, should cut or wound himself severely, and thus be rendered unable to labor, the government of the society were to inquire into his case, and afford such relief as they might think proper. The son of a deceased member, — being a housewright and a master workman, and having the qualifications necessary for membership, — might be admitted a member without paying any entrance money. The officers in 1805, were William Todd, president — Amos Lincoln, vice president — Thomas W. Sumner, treasurer — Jonathan Loring, secretary — Ephraim Marsh, Moses Eayres, Jeremiah Gardner, Jedidiah Lincoln, James Bolter, Asher Benjamin, Joseph Eustis, Thomas Hearsey, Benjamin Howland, trustees. In the course of its operations, this society established a library, consisting chiefly of works on architecture. On its dissolution, these books were transferred to our association, and now form a valuable part of our library.

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November 13. The members of the government made their several reports concerning the delinquent members, on whom they were directed to call personally. After discussion upon the result, it was resolved that the names of twenty individuals be stricken from the books, and omitted in the book of constitution then in press.

The government held meetings November 27 and December 11. A question had been started whether the new constitution was strictly conformable to the charter, and it was agreed "that some eminent law character be consulted thereon." It was found necessary to make some alteration, — which was subsequently approved at the quarterly meeting.

December 18. Annual meeting. The committee on the secretary and treasurer's accounts made a long report, in the usual form, and with remarks approving the operations of those officers. Without copying the entire details of the report, it is sufficient to state that the secretary had received, from September, 1805, on account of deficient bank share assessments, — quarterly assessment, — money for books of constitution, — certificates of membership and for apprentices, — festival and funeral fund assessments, and subscriptions, — and admittance fees of new members, $365.

That the treasurer had received, on account of the general fund, from the secretary, — dividends on bank shares, and United States six per cent. stock, — and balance on hand at last account, $1,192 77.

The treasurer had paid from the funeral fund, $80, and the balance remaining in his hands was $183 12.

The whole property of the association, — bank stock, United States six per cent. stock, cash on had, &c. amounted to about $3,200.

There was then due to the association, on account of various assessments, and for entrance fees of new members, Three hundred and seven dollars.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: —

Jonathan Hunewell, *President.* Francis Wright, *Treasurer.*
Benjamin Russell, *Vice-President.* Thomas Wells, *Secretary.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Samuel Todd, | John Cotton, |
| Charles Clement, | Ephraim Thayer, |
| David Cobb, | Peter Osgood, |
| James Barry, | Jonathan Kilham, |
| John D. Howard, | *Trustees.* |

The article in the constitution providing for a public festival met with opposition from many members; and some who were not at the meeting when the constitution was adopted, now desired to have that article expunged. After a warm debate, it was voted, "That a committee be chosen to take into consideration that part of the constitution which relates to a public festival, and to make a report on the expediency or inexpediency of its remaining as it now is." The committee consisted of Francis Wright, Josiah Snelling, Henry Purkitt, Moses Eayres, and Job Drew; and the committee was requested to make a report at the next quarterly meeting.

John D. Howard declined serving as a trustee, and, at the meeting in March, Christopher Smith was elected in his place.

Members admitted in 1806:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Thomas Conn, Charlestown, Housewright. | Edward Gray, Housewright. |
| James Bird, Housewright. | Samuel Howe, Cordwainer. |
| Henry Leonard, Tallow-Chandler. | Samuel Hichborn, Sailmaker. |
| Seth Lathrop, Housewright. | Thomas K. Emery, Silversmith. |

☞ Here closes an abstract or abridgement of the records for the first eleven years of the existence of the association. Many persons had been balloted for and admitted as members, who never signed the constitution; some never paid the entrance fee, and some who did pay never afterwards paid any assessment, nor attended any of the meetings. The institution did not immediately fulfil the expectations or wishes of some, who were impatient to realize imaginary benefits. It was very inconsiderately supposed by some, that by becoming members, they should obtain pecuniary advantages, that they would not otherwise enjoy; and these, of course, were disappointed. When they had been solicited to pay

arrearages, some angrily replied, that they received no benefit from their membership, and did not care how soon their names were expunged from the books. It will have been perceived, that the government exercised great and exemplary forbearance in regard to delinquent members; and it may be asserted with truth, that no person was pressed for the payment of an assessment, when there was any indication of inability on his part to discharge the demand. From the commencement of the institution to the close of the year 1806, a great number of those who had been admitted, either withdrew voluntarily or were discharged for non-compliance with the constitution which they had signed. Some deaths occurred during this period; but it is not easy (perhaps it is impossible) *now*, to determine, precisely whether the individuals were members or not at the time of their decease, — as the record takes no notice of the decease of members, unless they were subscribers to the funeral fund. Of these, the first who died was John M'Intosh, and his brother, Peter M'Intosh, was the first beneficiary of that fund. The next death among the subscribers was that of Andrew Roath; next followed one, whose family, owing to his long neglect, forfeited their claim to the benefit of the fund; Martin Conning, George Singleton, William Tyler, Richard Hunewell, William Meinzies, and James Brewer, died in the order in which their names are recorded, and to the families of each Forty dollars were presented by the treasurer. For very obvious reasons, the names of such as forfeited their membership are here omitted. Any member, wishing to know the names of such individuals, can be informed, on consulting the records.

☞ The preceding pages contain all the facts connected with the history of the association, which could be derived from existing documents. The language is generally that of the recording officers, and many of the details are literal transcripts of the record. The details will, doubtless, to some, appear too unimportant to have been revived, perpetuated, and multiplied, by means of the press; but to many they will have an interest that would not be found in a mere abstract. The greatest part of those, whose names have hitherto ap-

peared as members of the association, are no longer on the earth; and the sight of those names will recall incidents and scenes, on which the minds of their successors will dwell with pleasure. It may also be objected, that some of the proceedings, here brought before the reader, should have been permitted to slumber in the manuscript record; but let it be observed, that practices, which may now be deemed discreditable, were not thought so fifty years ago. If the social and convivial habits that prevailed in the days of our fathers were such as are now banished from society in general, as unprofitable and demoralizing, it should be remembered that their indulgence was one of the errors of the age. It has been the aim of this compilation, to exhibit what the association *was*, in its infancy and childhood, and to let those, who compose it in its vigorous manhood and enlightened maturity, improve its condition by avoiding what was faulty, and cherishing all that was blameless and virtuous in the conduct of their predecessors.

These annals embrace the history of our association from its institution, in March, 1795, to the end of the year 1806, when it had become a body corporate, and its proceedings had a legal existence. The *form* of the journal has been generally preserved, and, consequently, many repetitions have been introduced. This was thought advisable, that the labors of our predecessors, to secure for the institution the character of fairness, and to give to their proceedings the weight of parliamentary order, may be seen and appreciated. The compilation will now assume an appearance of less formality; and the fate of subjects introduced for consideration will generally be presented without reference to the meetings when they passed through different stages to their final disposition.

# 1807.

The "Committee of Patentees and Proprietors of Patents," by their chairman, Benjamin Dearborn, presented to the government a number of pamphlets, entitled "Remarks on the Rights of Inventors," &c. and requested their acceptance thereof. Messrs. Russell and Wright were appointed a committee to acknowledge the present and return an answer to Mr. Dearborn.

*Applications for assistance*, both in the way of loans, and charitable donations, were made from sundry persons during the year.

The widow of one who had once been a member, then recently deceased, made an application for assistance, which was referred to a committee, with instructions, if they should find it expedient to grant immediate relief, to give the applicant a sum, not exceeding Twenty dollars. The committee, after making suitable inquiries, reported that the applicant was in comfortable circumstances and did not need a donation. The report was accepted. At a subsequent meeting, the president stated, that, from information he had received, he believed that the committee had been misinformed relative to the widow's situation, and that she really stood in need of pecuniary assistance: — upon which the government again instructed the committee to examine the subject. The second report of the committee was, "That they had ascertained from the records that the late Mr. —— was not a member of the association when he deceased; — that his name was erased from the books in May, 1805, on account of delinquency, and that he had not paid any assessment for three years previous; — that, although a grant may be acceptable to the applicant, yet, under the existing circumstances, the committee conceive that it is not expedient to withdraw any thing from the funds of the association." This report was accepted.

An application for a loan of money was made by a member of the association to the government. Neither the name

of the applicant nor the purpose for which the loan was wanted, appears on the record. The application was referred to Messrs. Russell, Cotton, and Kilham. The record after next meeting states that "A report of the committee on the loaning subject was read and ordered to lie on the table, to be called up at some future time."

At the quarterly meeting in March, a subscription paper, in behalf of Nathaniel Patten, ropemaker, whose ropewalk and stock had lately been destroyed by fire, was laid before the association, and D. Tuttle, R. Sanborn, and J. Tuckerman, were appointed a committee to receive subscriptions for his relief. This committee occasionally reported progress: — on one occasion, that they had received subscriptions for One hundred and seventy-two dollars in cash, and Sixty dollars in work. As Mr. Patten's health was feeble, the government voted Twenty dollars from the fund, for his relief. The last report of the committee states that his health appeared to be re-established, and that no appropriation from the fund was necessary.

David Bowen, it is stated, made a proposition to the government relative to the rebuilding of the Columbian Museum — relating to which there is no subsequent record, although it was referred to Messrs. Wright, Russell, Clement, Thayer and Osgood.

Gen. Winslow and Major Blanchard contributed Five dollars each to the funeral fund, which was duly acknowledged in letters from the secretary.

At the quarterly meeting in June, the following report was submitted by a committee previously appointed: —

*Boston, June* 18, 1807.

The committee of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, appointed to inquire into, and to report on, the resources of the association, having attended to the duty assigned, are happy in being able to make a report, honorable to the fidelity of those who have been intrusted with those funds, and indicative of the increasing prosperity of the association.

The *general fund* of the association has been raised by entrance fees on the admission of members of *One dollar,* which continued until September, 1795; — of *One dollar and fifty cents,* which continued till December, 1804; — and of *Five dollars* since: — By an assessment on each

member of *One dollar*, per annum: — By an assessment of *Two dollars* on each member in 1803, to purchase bank stock: — By the interest accruing on the funds, and by certain small fees arising from books and certificates.

With resources thus limited, it was to be expected that some years would expire before the funds could amount to any respectable sum. It is the condition of *all* infant societies, that, while their funds accumulate but slowly, their expenses are as great, in many instances, as when in more mature stages. Thus, in 1795, the committee find, that the moneys then received, amounted to Two hundred and eleven dollars, and the expenses were upwards of Sixty-seven dollars. In December, 1797, they find that there were then in the hands of the treasurer Three hundred and twelve dollars and fifty cents. Of this sum, Two hundred and ninety-seven dollars and thirty cents were invested in a state note in 1798. Until the year 1800, the society did not appear to flourish. In December of that year, besides the above state note, there were in the treasurer's hands, One hundred and ninety-seven dollars and ninety-six cents. In 1801, besides the above note, the cash on hand amounted to Two hundred and eighty dollars. In 1802, there were in the hands of the treasurer, state notes to the amount of Six hundred and thirty-two dollars and sixty-three cents, and Three hundred and six dollars eleven cents in cash. In 1803, the treasurer was directed to invest the state notes, money on hand, and the assessments before mentioned, in purchasing bank shares in the Boston Bank, and he did purchase Fifteen shares, amounting to Fifteen hundred dollars. In 1804, beside the above bank shares, the treasurer had on hand in cash, Two hundred and eighty-four dollars and seventy-seven cents. In September, 1805, besides the bank shares, the cash on hand amounted to Six hundred and thirty-eight dollars and thirty-one cents. In 1806, the treasurer purchased a note of the six per cent. stock of the United States, for Five hundred and ten dollars and twenty-two cents; — which he had on hand, besides the above bank shares, and Five hundred and thirty-six dollars and seventy-seven cents in cash. And, at the present date, June 18, 1807, the funds and property of the association are as follows: —

| | |
|---|---|
| Fifteen bank shares, at par, . . . | $1,500 00 |
| One certificate, a note, six per cent. stock, | 503 00 |
| One " " " | 562 46 |
| J. B. Hammatt's note and interest, due, . | 51 25 |
| Cash in treasurer's hands, . . . . | 177 39 |
| Advance on bank stock at this day, 10 per cent. | 150 00 |
| Outstanding debts due from members, say, | 300 00 |
| Making a total of | $3,244 10 |

The committee further state, that in the early periods of the society, many debts were lost by the delinquency of members; but that, of late

years, owing to the vigilance and care of the secretaries and the punctuality of the members, those losses have been very much lessened.

The committee cannot fail to remark, that, while the annual assessment of the association has continued the *same*, ever since its first institution, the expenses of the society have increased in amount, from the enhanced prices of every article of consumption and labor; and they have ascertained that, since the year 1801, the association have expended in grants to distressed applicants, in the payment of compensations to the secretaries and messengers, in expenses of printing, advertising, engraving, and the quarterly and annual meetings, Seven hundred and forty-three dollars and twenty-one cents; and that there are some few demands on the society, the bills of which have not been presented. Yet, notwithstanding these donations and expenses, the committee are gratified in finding, that the general funds of the society have increased from year to year, (of late years rapidly,) and that they are now highly respectable.

All which is respectfully submitted. BENJAMIN RUSSELL.

The chairman of the committee, also, stated, in addition to his report, that a part of the amount mentioned, was expended for articles which still remain the property of the association, viz: — A trunk containing the books of the association, the copper-plate of the certificates of membership and apprentices, blank certificates, books of constitution, seal, truncheons, balloting-boxes, balls, &c. The treasurer also presented a statement, giving an account of all cash paid by him on warrants, with the items of each specified at length, schedule of the property in his hands, &c. &c.

These reports were satisfactory to the meeting, and received an expression of thanks for the labor and fidelity with which they had been prepared.

A letter was received, in July, from the President of the Associated Mechanics and Manufacturers of New Hampshire, stating that they had obtained from the Legislature of that state an act of incorporation, and also an act securing to masters and apprentices their mutual privileges; and enclosing copies of these acts and their by-laws; and concluding with customary civilities of expression; signed Tobias Walker, President. To this a reply was transmitted, acknowledging the receipt of the letter and documents, and adding, — Our "estimable President, Jonathan Hunewell, Esq. being on a tour to the Eastward, will be the bearer of this

acknowledgement. The government of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association will consider any marks of attention paid him, as tokens of respect for themselves." Signed, by direction of the government, THOMAS WELLS, Secretary. A second letter from the New-Hampshire Society, dated October 6, says, — "Your much esteemed and polite communication, accompanied by a copy of your constitution, certificates, &c. were duly received by the hands of your highly-respected president. We very much regretted that his tarry in this town [Portsmouth] was so short, that we were unable to manifest that respect to him, which we could have most heartily wished."

During the year, the government was called upon to examine some new machinery, made by John Beath. A committee reported, that "the articles appear to be the effect of an ingenious mind, and to be peculiarly calculated to give ease to diseased persons, and to correct irregularities in the human form. That, in their opinion, he is deserving recommendatory notice of the government, and, if admitted a member of the association, would do it credit."

A difficulty between one of the members and a person who applied for membership, concerning the employing of a dismissed apprentice, was before the government, in one form or another, almost every meeting during the year. The candidate was finally approved by the government, but was rejected on a ballot by the association.

At the annual meeting, December 17, the committee of finance made another elaborate report, which presented the following yearly exhibit of funds, stocks, debts and property of the association: —

| | |
|---|---|
| Fifteen shares in Boston bank, at par, | $1,500 00 |
| One certificate of United States stock, | 503 00 |
| One do. do. | 562 26 |
| One do. do. | 257 47 |
| John B. Hammatt's note and interest, | 54 00 |
| Cash in treasurer's hands, | 9 73 |
| Outstanding debt, including quarterly assessments of December, 1807, and exclusive of the funeral fund, | 370 00 |
| Making a total of | $3,406 46 |

The committee further stated, that the association possessed the following articles, viz: — "One elegant general standard: — One belt and silver socket: — One silver seal: — Nine marshall's sashes, and six truncheons: — One trunk, containing the following books, viz. One ledger, one record book, one written constitution book, with the original signatures of the members therein: — Two copper plates of certificates: — Forty-five certificates for members (blank): — One hundred keys descriptive of the certificate of membership: — Twenty-two certificates for apprentices: — Two pairs of balloting boxes, and about Three hundred balls, — together with the files of original reports, papers, &c. It was also stated, that there were then Two hundred and seventy members of the association, of whom One hundred and thirty-seven were subscribers to the funeral fund."

Donations of Five dollars each to the funeral fund were sent from Gen. Winslow and Major Blanchard, by the hand of James Phillips, — which were acknowledged, as usual, by the secretary.

The time for electing officers having arrived, Mr. Hunewell declined a re-election as president. The following officers were then chosen, viz: —

Benjamin Russell, *President.* Richard Faxon, *Treasurer.*
Daniel Messinger, *Vice-President.* Thomas Wells, *Secretary.*

James Barry, Christopher Smith,
John Cotton, Asher Benjamin,
Ephraim Thayer, Thomas Dean,
Peter Osgood, Jeremiah Gardner,
Jonathan Kilham, *Trustees.*

After discussion on the article in the constitution relative to a public festival, a large majority voted that it should be retained.

Only four persons were admitted this year, viz: —

Edward Oliver, Printer. Lewis Sargent, Chaise-maker.
Isaac Munroe, Printer. Henry Hutchinson, Sailmaker.

# 1808.

The first government meeting was held, January 6. Mr. Richard Faxon, by message, declined to accept the office of treasurer, to which he had been elected, in consequence of which Mr. Wright was requested to continue in office, until the next quarterly meeting. He complied with the request of the government. At the meeting of the association in March, Joseph Lovering was elected to, and accepted, the office.

Repeated applications having been made to the government for loans, the subject was frequently discussed. It was finally voted, unanimously, that "it is not expedient that any loans should be made from the funds of the association to individual members," — and this was ratified by the association.

The following correspondence requires no explanatory remark: —

*Boston, March* 16, 1808.

Dear Sir, — In contemplating on the advantages which may arrive to the members of our society, I am led to believe *that* of the funeral fund to be one of the most prominent and useful features. And when I consider the sum which would meet the average annual assessment on that fund, I regret that we are obliged, for this small amount, to assess so many of our brother associates. My belief, Sir, is, that there might be found in the society members sufficient to subscribe a small sum annually to this fund, until an interest for that object was obtained, and *that*, without calling on some of our members, who, although the most liberal, industrious, and deserving, are not the most fortunate amongst us. Should a project like this meet your approbation, I shall cheerfully give it my aid. But, as there is yet no such project on foot, and perhaps you may think it is not best at present to consider it, I have taken the liberty to enclose Twenty-five dollars, which, if acceptable, I beg may be placed to the funeral fund.

With sentiments of great respect for you, personally and officially, I am, Sir, your and the society's obedient servant and brother associate,

JONATHAN HUNEWELL.

To Benjamin Russell, Esq. *President.*

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ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

Your affectionate fellow citizen
Benj Russell.

*Boston, 16th March, 1808.*

JOSEPH HUNEWELL, Esq.

DEAR SIR, — Having duly received your very liberal donation to the [illegible] fund of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association [illegible] by your affectionate and polite note of this date, I have lost no [illegible] it to the government of the association, by whom I am directed to present to you, in behalf of the association, the [illegible] of their thanks. Your brother associates have been in the [illegible] favors from you, but this additional [illegible] of your [illegible] and attention, though it could not [illegible] has renewed their gratitude.

In the [illegible] expectation that the [illegible] may eventually [illegible] draft on that fund, which you very [illegible] the most useful [illegible] of the [illegible] the government have [illegible] to keep the [illegible] made to [illegible] to [illegible] the objects of [illegible]

With [illegible] that your happiness [illegible] with your [illegible] and services to your [illegible] I have the [illegible] friend and fellow [illegible]

[illegible]

About the same time, Mr. Lovering, the [illegible] [illegible], in a note to the president, [illegible] Twenty dollars, as a donation to the [illegible] and acknowledged in the [illegible] of the year, also, [illegible] made, each, a fourth [illegible]

Mr. Lovering having given the [illegible] by [illegible] endorsed upon the [illegible]

[illegible] Morgan, a member of the [illegible], met with a [illegible] loss by a fire, namely, the [illegible] of two dwelling [illegible], which he was under contract to [illegible] and which [illegible] finished. [illegible] the association [illegible] made from the funds, — Twenty dollars, being the highest sum the government could grant, — and a subscription for his relief was taken up in the association, which produced a generous amount.

*Boston, 16th March*, 1808.

JONATHAN HUNEWELL, Esq.

DEAR SIR, — Having duly received your very liberal donation to the funeral fund of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, inclosed in your affectionate and polite note of this date, I have lost no time in communicating it to the government of the association, by whom I am directed to present to you, in behalf of the association, the unanimous vote of their thanks. Your brother associates have been in the habit of receiving favors from you, but this additional token of your benevolence and attention, though it could not augment has renewed their gratitude.

In the hope and expectation that the donation now acknowledged, with others before made, may eventually be augmented to a fund sufficiently productive to meet every draft on that fund, which you very justly denominate the most useful feature of the association, the government have voted, that it is expedient that the treasurer be directed to keep the donations and legacies, made to this fund, distinct, and whenever they amount to Fifty dollars, to invest the same in public stocks; and that the interest thereof be applied to the objects of the funeral fund.

With wishes that your happiness may be commensurate with your benevolence and services to your associates, I have the felicity to subscribe myself your friend and fellow associate.

BENJAMIN RUSSELL.

About the same time, Mr. Lovering, the newly-elected treasurer, inclosed, in a note to the president, the sum of Twenty dollars, as a donation to the funeral fund, — which was accepted and acknowledged in the usual manner. In the course of the year, also, Major Blanchard and General Winslow, made, each, a fourth donation of Five dollars to the same fund.

Mr. Lovering having given the bonds required by the constitution, entered upon the duties of his office, as treasurer, in June.

Henry Morgan, a member of the association, met with a severe loss by a fire, namely, the destruction of two dwelling-houses, which he was under contract to build and which were nearly finished. In order to enable him to fulfil his contract, he asked the assistance of the association. A grant was made from the funds, — Twenty dollars, being the highest sum the government could grant, — and a subscription for his relief was taken up in the association, which produced a generous amount.

Benjamin Gray petitioned the government for pecuniary aid "to enable him to procure a patent for some new invention or improvement in the rope-making line," — which was referred to a committee. On investigation, it appeared that the "invention was not new," and that a patent for it had already been obtained.

The report of the committee on the secretary and treasurer's accounts, presented at the annual meeting, December 15, exhibits the following aggregates, viz: —

| | |
|---|---|
| Received by the secretary, for quarterly assessments, books of constitution, entrance fees and certificates, for the general fund, . . . . . | $160 50 |
| For the funeral fund, assessments, subscriptions, certificates, and donations, . . . . . | 96 50 |
| Received by the treasurer, for the general fund, from the secretary, dividends on bank stock, interest on Six per cent. stock, and balance from his predecessor, . . . . | 411 22 |
| Of which he had paid for sundry bills, salary of the secretary, and charitable donations, . . . . . | 116 00 |
| The whole amount of the general fund, then in the possession of the treasurer, was . . . . . | 3,387 95 |
| Amount of the funeral fund, including assessments then due, | 329 86 |

There was also then due to the association from its members, One thousand eight hundred quarterly assessments, which with some entrance fees of new members, amounted to Four hundred and eighty-five dollars.

All the officers were re-elected for the succeeding year, except the three senior trustees, who retired agreeably to the constitution. Samuel Curtis, Thomas Howe, and John Pierce, were elected to fill the vacancy at the board.

Three subscribers to the funeral fund, viz. John Andrews, Jonathan Turner, and James Scott, died during the year; and the following were admitted: —

Richard Hills, Housewright.
Elias Cobb, Blacksmith.
William Jackson, Tallow-chandler.
Joseph Milner, Baker.
Joseph Lewis, Baker.
William King, Hatter.
Samuel White, jun. Stone-cutter.

# 1809.

Early in the year a proposition was made to the government that the association should subscribe for a certain number of shares in a new market (the Boylston market) then about to be erected at the south part of the town, which, after due consideration, was rejected. A proposition was also made that the association should take shares in the stock of the Exchange Coffee-House, — and this, too, after consideration, was deemed inexpedient.

A considerable portion of time was occupied this year by the government in attempts to adjust the accounts of delinquent members. The labors of the secretary were in constant requisition for this purpose, but were not always attended with success. Many members were unaccountably neglectful of their obligations. After all the exertions of the secretary and of the several trustees, to whom bills were committed for collection, a considerable number of members remained delinquent. Nearly thirty names of those who were found to be incorrigible, and whose arrearages were unpaid for various terms from two to seven years, were erased from the books.

At the quarterly meeting in March, Henry Hutchinson was elected a trustee, in place of Thomas Howe, who declined serving.

This year was distinguished by the observance of the first "Triennial Festival" of the association. At the quarterly meeting in September, the president called the attention of the members to the subject. A motion was made that the festival be postponed for the present year, — which, after a long and spirited debate, was lost. It was then voted, that the members of the government, with thirteen others, be a committee of arrangements, and the following members were added to the government to constitute the committee, viz: — Jonathan Hunewell, Henry Purkitt, Francis Wright, Job Drew, John Cotton, Samuel Howe, Joseph Howe, James Barry, James B. Marston, Amasa Murdock, William Jennings, Ebenezer Larkin, Peter McIntosh, and Isaac Cushing. This

committee met at the house of the president, October 6, and began their preparatory arrangements, by the appointment of sub-committees, to provide a dinner, — to procure music, — to report on the expediency of having a public address, — to prepare toasts, and songs, &c. &c. The general committee held sundry meetings, when these matters were severally reported upon by the sub-committees.

The sub-committee, to whom had been referred the subject of a public address, made a report, which, as it involved rather more formalities in the proceeding than was usual on similar occasions, may be transcribed at length, as follows: —

The committee, who had under consideration the subject of an address to be delivered before the society on the day of the festival, *report*, That they have attended to that duty, and are unanimously of opinion, that it is 'expedient' that an address be delivered on that day, before the society; and as the constitution is wholly silent on that subject, and consequently gives no direction how, or in what manner, an orator may be chosen, your committee recommend that the orator be chosen by the government of the society, by ballot, at a stated, or special meeting, held for that purpose; of which meeting the members shall be duly notified by written ballot, at least six days before the time of holding such meeting; and the choice thus being made, the orator shall be notified thereof, by written billet, signed by the president or vice-president, and two trustees, and countersigned by the secretary. All which is most respectfully submitted by the committee.

F. WRIGHT,
JOSEPH LOVERING,
HENRY PURKITT.

*Nov.* 9, 1809.

The report was unanimously accepted.

At a meeting of the government, November 23, a ballot for an orator was taken, and the president, — the vice-president being in the chair, — was unanimously chosen. The following letter, signed by the vice-president and the two oldest trustees, was immediately transmitted to him: —

*Boston, Nov.* 23, 1809.

BENJAMIN RUSSELL, Esq. *President of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association.*

SIR, — Pursuant to a vote of the committee of arrangements, the government of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, regularly convened at the house of Mr. Henry Hutchinson, proceeded to the choice of a gentleman to deliver before the association an address at their yearly meeting, December 21st, 1809, and we have the pleasure to inform you

that they have unanimously made choice of their president for that purpose, and his acceptance is earnestly requested, by your humble servants, in behalf of the government. DANIEL MESSINGER, *Vice-Pres.*

PETER OSGOOD, } *Trustees.*
JONATHAN KILHAM, }

Attest, THOMAS WELLS, *Secretary.*

*Boston, Nov.* 27, 1809.

To DANIEL MESSINGER, Esq. *Vice-President of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association.*

SIR, — I have duly received your polite communication of the vote of the government, appointing me to deliver an address before the association, at their Triennial Festival in December ensuing. I feel duly affected with the honor conferred upon me, and am sensible of my inability to do that justice on the occasion, which the government has a right to expect. But as it ought to be a characteristic of the members of our institution, never to shrink from a duty, from motives of personal inconvenience, I accept the appointment, and will discharge the duty to the best of my ability.

With sentiments of esteem and respect, I am, Sir, your obliged friend,
BENJAMIN RUSSELL.

The annual meeting was held on Thursday, December 21. The committee appointed for that purpose, reported the result of their examination of the secretary and treasurer's accounts, from which it appears that the secretary had received, —

| | |
|---|---|
| On account of the general fund, for copies of the constitution, quarterly assessments, entrance fees of new members, and certificates of members and apprentices, . . . . . | $355 62 |
| For the funeral fund, 576 assessments at 37½ cents each, 11 subscriptions, 11 certificates, and one donation from George Blanchard, . . . . . | 254 00 |
| | $609 62 |
| After paying sundry bills for stationery, services, &c. the treasurer had on hand, to carry to new account of the general fund, | 216 43 |
| And of the funeral fund, after paying to the families of B. Varney, P. Smink, and A. Edwards, Forty dollars each, . . | 215 11 |
| And donations to the fund, . . . . . | 80 00 |
| The whole property of the association then consisted of U. S. stock, bank stock, note of J. B. Hammatt and interest, and cash on hand, . . . . . | $3,954 41 |
| The funeral fund and cash on hand, . . . . . | 295 11 |
| Due from members to both funds, about . . . . . | 360 00 |
| | $4,609 52 |

There were then Two hundred and thirty-five members, of whom One hundred and thirty-two, only, were subscribers to the funeral fund.

Benjamin Varney, Peter Smink, Lemuel Gardner and Abraham Edwards, subscribers to the funeral fund, died during the year.

The president stated, that he had just received, in addition to former donations from General Winslow and Major Blanchard, Ten dollars each, as donations to the funeral fund.

Eighteen candidates were admitted, viz:—

Thomas Seymour, Cabinet-maker.
William Lemon, Upholsterer.
Nathaniel Faxon, Cordwainer.
Turell Tuttle, jun. Bricklayer.
Samuel T. Armstrong, Printer.
Charles F. Kupper, Glass-manufacturer.
Allen Bowker, Housewright.
Edward Renouf, Printer.
Chester Stebbins, Printer.
William Greenough, Printer.
John Eliot, jun. Printer.
Ithiel Towne, Housewright.
Jesse Churchill, Silversmith.
Henry Tolman, Painter.
Lafayette Perkins, Painter.
George Darracott, Tinplate-worker.
Martin Burr, Tailor.
William English, Cabinet-maker.

The following officers were chosen, viz:—

Benjamin Russell, *President.*
Daniel Messinger, *Vice-President.*
Joseph Lovering, *Treasurer.*
Thomas Wells, *Secretary.*

Ashur Benjamin,
Thomas Dean,
Jeremiah Gardner,
Samuel Curtis,
John Pierce,
Henry Hutchinson,
Jonathan Loring,
Jonathan Whitney,
Samuel Tuttle,
*Trustees.*

The ordinary business having been transacted, a procession was formed under the direction of Mr. Jonathan Loring, as chief marshal, and proceeded to the meeting-house in Chauncey-place. The procession made quite an imposing display, and was attended though the streets by a large crowd of spectators. The standard of the association was borne by Col. Jonathan Whitney. The guests of the association numbered about twenty, among whom were the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor of the State, the Chief Justice, Judge Davis of the United States Court, the United States Marshal, the Sheriff of Suffolk, the President of the Senate and

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Selectmen, Town Clerk, Rev. William Emerson, chaplain of the day, and three other Clergymen, and several officers of mechanic associations in other states. At the meeting-house, several pieces of sacred music were performed by a select choir, prayers were offered by the Rev. Mr. Emerson, an address was delivered by the president, and an ode was sung by Chester Stebbins. After these services the association, with their guests, dined at the Exchange Coffee-House. The dinner was accompanied with song and sentiment, — which will be found in detail in the book of records; and thus closed the first Triennial Festival of the association.*

---

* Mr. Russell's address was worthy of the occasion — dictated by good sense, and delivered with no attempt to exhibit the affectation of rhetoric. An extract from the exordium explains its object and plan: —

"By your appointment, my respected brethren of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, I am required to address you on this pleasing and brilliant anniversary. To have declined the appointment, would have appeared to call in question your judgment, — to doubt your candor and liberality, — and to deviate from a characteristic of your institution, which requires of its members, never to recede from the performance of an assigned duty, from considerations of personal inconvenience. You shall therefore command my best efforts, in the discharge of this new and arduous obligation.

"With your indulgence, I will attempt to contrast the condition of society since the general diffusion of the arts you profess, with that of those periods in the history of man, when they were unknown, — were the mere speculations of ingenious theorists — or were employed to *injure* more than to *benefit* his species: — and to exhibit a sketch of their origin and progress. An essay will then be made to describe in *what manner* and to *what extent* man derives benefits from the mechanic arts, as an inhabitant of the land; a navigator of the sea; and a contemplator of the heavens. Inquiry will follow, whether they, who honorably and successfully exercise and improve those arts, are not justly entitled to general regard and liberal patronage; and whether they themselves ought not highly to estimate the lot which has fallen to them to be thus pre-eminently useful? A few reflections, addressed particularly to you, my brother associates, will finish the contemplated outline."

The "outline" was filled up with skill and ingenuity, and contained as much historical illustration as could well be crowded into twenty-five pages. The following is the closing paragraph: —

"Bear with me, my brothers, in addressing a few closing words to you, as citizens of a young, rising, and independent empire. You are acknowledged to be the benefactors of society in your exercise of the pacific arts: — you must be its strength and defence, should your country, — which may Heaven avert, — be involved in war. The arm nerved by labor is best adapted to wield with success the warrior's sword; and the frame, made robust by exercise, the ablest to endure the hardships of the soldier's life. You will bear in mind, that many of the heroes of the revolutionary war were called from the work-bench and the shop-board, to command companies, regiments, and brigades, — and even to the head of armies, — and you will not forget

The government held a special meeting, December 30, to settle the bills of expenses of the festival. The whole amount was Six hundred and twenty-one dollars and seventy-six cents; the amount received for tickets, Five hundred and ten

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that it is the mechanic alone who can give form and effect to those great ingredients of a nation's strength and independence, '*Wood*, *Iron*, and *Hemp*;' and that, therefore, in a *crisis* of affairs, your country will have a claim upon you for pre-eminent services. A cloud, portentous of trying times, lowers in the political horizon. In the destinies of your country, — *whatever they may be*, — your voice will have a commanding influence. Greatly essential, then, is it, that you fully and impartially inform yourselves of her *Political Relations* — of her RIGHTS and of her DUTIES: — That while you are ready to pledge *your honor* and *your lives*, and swear never to suffer, with impunity, any power on earth, to subvert the Independence, or impair the Rights of your beloved country; you will swear, also, never to countenance any men, who shall attempt to subvert the Independence or impair the Rights of others: — That you bear in mind, that nations, like individuals, may seem right in their own eyes, but that their neighbor nation may come after and judge them: That, as citizens, while you reverence the national and state constitutions; obey the laws; pay cheerfully your contributions to the public treasury; are ready to vindicate the rights and to defend the territory of your country; you hold it to be your sacred prerogative, to demand of rulers protection of life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness; the freedom of opinion and the elective franchise; true economy in the expenditure of the public money — that economy which saves by spending; — national defence by sea and land; the encouragement of the mechanic arts, manufactures, commerce, and the fisheries: — *The preservation of the peace of your country* — if it can be preserved without the sacrifice of national honor and independence: — But if peace cannot be preserved without that great sacrifice; — if an impartial, honest, and magnanimous vindication of the just rights and honor of your country be opposed by any empire or nation under Heaven, with contemptuous defiance, anti-neutral encroachments, unjust aggressions, and national insults: you must raise your voice to demand, — in preference to servile submission to them, — that party spirit be annihilated — party distinctions scattered to the winds; — that deprivations be disregarded — dangers welcomed, — and that one solemn and united appeal be again made to the Arbiter of Nations — to the God of armies, — confidently assured, —

That HE who rides upon the spheres
With bright, angelic charioteers,
  Will speak in thundering voice: —
'Columbia! hear the Almighty Lord!
If JUSTICE bids you — draw the sword:
  Be this — not FEAR — your choice.

Of this *assured* — then rise in arms,
And bid the din of War's alarms
  Extend from sea to sea; —
Despise to shrink before a foe,
But let each bold invader know,
  COLUMBIANS WILL BE FREE!'"

After the address, the following ode, written for the occasion, by Samuel G. Snelling, a young printer, was sung by Chester Stebbins: —

dollars; leaving a balance to be paid from the general fund of One hundred and eleven dollars and seventy-six cents.

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TUNE — *Anacreon in Heaven.*

When first from on high the great fiat was given,
'By the sweat of thy brow shall thy bread be procured,'
The *curse* proved a *blessing* descending from Heaven,
And the goddess of Genius her patrons allured.
Then first were displayed
The Plough, Sickle, and Spade,
And Industry, smiling, Heaven's mandate obeyed.
No foe dare molest where in union are joined
The Plough, Loom, and Chisel, with Commerce combined.

Scarce a thousand short years had completed their round,
When Tubal stood foremost, the pride of his nation;
At the Almighty's behest, kings and princes were drowned,
But the ship-builder NOAH 'scaped the wide inundation.
Then flourished again
Blest Industry's reign,
Her palace on earth, while her ships ploughed the main.
With Science and Art in communion were joined
The Plough, Loom, and Chisel, with Commerce combined.

When erst the old world, in dark ignorance held,
By the sceptre of tyrants and priestcraft surrounded,
FAUST, the printer, arose — the gloom was dispelled,
And the foes of mankind by the Type were confounded.
Hail, Science divine!
The palm shall be thine,
While Freedom exults at fell Tyranny's shrine.
No foe dare molest, where in union are joined
The Plough, Loom, and Chisel, with Commerce combined.

Let the legions of Gallia our country invade,
Let the sails of proud Albion whiten the ocean;
Our pruning-hooks, plough-shares, to swords shall be made,
And the hammer's sweet sound yield to War's dread commotion.
We feel not their charms
When the tocsin alarms,
And Behona's shrill clarion awakes us to arms.
No foe dare molest, while in union are joined
The Plough, Loom, and Chisel, with Commerce combined.

Hail, Charity! hail! may thy laws be obeyed,
Till the earth be enveloped in vast dissolution;
While brotherly love shall one bosom pervade,
May thy blessings be shed on this great institution!
May this mansion so fair,
Plumb, Level, and Square,
By Love be cemented and nourished with care.
With Charity, Law, and Equality joined,
The Plough, Loom, and Chisel, with Commerce combined.

# 1810.

The secretary informed the government, at its first meeting, January 11, that, agreeably to instruction given to him on the day of the festival, he had procured to be printed Five hundred copies of Mr. Russell's Address, with the order of exercises, and the names of the officers of the association attached thereto. It was voted, that the members be charged Twenty cents each for a copy of the address; and that fifty copies be delivered to the president.

It was voted, at the next meeting, that the secretary be allowed Twenty-five dollars, as a salary for his services the year past, and that a piece of plate, not exceeding Sixty dollars in value, be presented to him, "for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office for several years." The committee appointed to carry this vote into effect, at a subsequent meeting, reported that they had presented to Mr. Wells a silver pitcher, on which was engraven the following inscription: —

*Be just and fear not.* — Presented by the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, to Thomas Wells, in testimony of their approbation of his faithful services in the office of Secretary, March 22, 1810.

As usual, the delinquency of members was frequently the subject of action at the meetings of the government. Great exertions were made by the secretary, and by committees, to secure a punctual payment of assessments, and to induce the members, who were guilty of neglect, to a more strict and honorable performance of their obligations. Twenty members, for incorrigible neglect, were expelled from the association. Several members, who were willing but unable to pay the regular assessments, had their dues remitted, and retained their membership.

Thomas Godfrey, William Ratchford, and Samuel Nichols, subscribers to the funeral fund, deceased during the year, and the families of each received from the fund the sum of Forty

dollars. Twenty members subscribed to the fund, and a donation of Ten dollars was made by a gentleman, who declined giving his name.

The report of the committee on the funds, at the annual meeting in December, represented the property of the association, consisting of United States Six per cent. stock, bank stock, cash on hand of both funds, and *arrearages of members*, as amounting in the aggregate to *Four thousand six hundred and seventy-two dollars and eleven cents.* The arrearages of members are set down at Four hundred dollars!

The action of the government in regard to delinquent members was unanimously approved.

The following officers were elected, viz:—

Benjamin Russell, *President.* Joseph Lovering, *Treasurer.*
Daniel Messinger, *Vice-President.* Thomas Wells, *Secretary.*

Samuel Curtis, Samuel Tuttle,
John Pierce, Gedney King,
Henry Hutchinson, Benjamin Clark,
Jonathan Loring, Jesse Mayo,
Jonathan Whitney, *Trustees.*

Fourteen candidates were admitted to membership, as follows:—

Joseph Jenkins, Housewright.
Peter Bonner, Housewright.
Thomas Kendall, Sailmaker.
John Loring, Baker.
Asa Crocker, Hatter.
John Park, Printer.
David Francis, Printer.
Joshua Belcher, Printer.
Samuel Avery, Printer.
John Gill, Stucco-worker.
Francis Southack, Baker.
William Adams, Watch-maker.
Benjamin Darling, Glazier.
Alexander Jennings, Blacksmith.

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## 1811.

The government renewed and persevered in its efforts to collect the regular constitutional assessments, during the year. The names of Five members were erased from the books, one of whom had been delinquent six and the others five years.

Forty dollars was voted as the compensation of the secretary for his services the preceding year.

Josiah Fowle, David Cobb, and Stephen Gore, subscribers to the funeral fund, deceased during the year, and Forty dollars was paid to the family of each, agreeably to the constitution.

A donation of Five dollars to the funeral fund, was received from Mr. George Blanchard.

A proposition to make a grant from the general fund to the sufferers by a fire in Newburyport, was discussed in the government, and referred to a committee. The committee reported, that "in the present situation of the funds, such a sum cannot be spared as would be honorable to the association to grant: — And further that a large portion of the members have already subscribed to the relief contemplated, in their individual capacity; and they therefore recommend that it is inexpedient to make the grant in question."

The report was unanimously accepted by the government, and approved at the next quarterly meeting.

A proposed change in the investment of the funds was a subject of serious consideration in the government; which was finally deemed inexpedient. The treasurer was directed to subscribe for twenty shares in the State Bank, then recently incorporated.

The report of the committee of the government, appointed to examine the books and accounts of the secretary and treasurer (the details of which it is unnecessary to transcribe) presented the following statement of the productive property of the association, viz: —

| | |
|---|---|
| 15 shares Boston Bank, at par, | $1,500 00 |
| 5 " Union Bank, | 500 00 |
| 20 " State Bank ($400 paid in) and now advanced 10 per cent. | 440 00 |
| United States stock, nominal value, about | 920 00 |
| J. B. Hammatt's note and interest, | 62 21 |
| Cash on hand for general fund, | 499 04 |
| " " funeral fund, | 269 48 |
| " " donation fund, | 115 00 |
| Amount due from members for assessments to both funds, about | 447 60 |
| | $4,753 33 |

The report having been accepted, on motion of Peter Osgood, preceded by some observations in favor of his motion, the association voted, "That the note of J. B. Hammatt, which the treasurer now holds, as mentioned in the report, be given up to Mr. Hammatt, together with the interest thereon."

The election of officers coming up in order, Mr. Wells declined an election as secretary, and Edward Renouf was chosen to that office. The president, vice-president, and treasurer, were unanimously re-elected. The three senior trustees, Messrs. Curtis, Pierce, and Hutchinson, were constitutionally ineligible to a re-election. The other six were re-chosen; and Samuel Hichborn, jun. Jonathan Harrington, and Gerry Fairbanks, were elected to fill up the board.

Only four persons were admitted this year, viz: —

William Currier, Baker.
Thomas Brown, Baker.
Nathaniel Heard, Cordwainer.
Joseph T. Buckingham, Printer.

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## 1812.

At the first government meeting, January 15, at the house of the president, Mr. T. Wells, the late secretary, presented his account current, which was ordered to be placed on record. It may be referred to as an illustration of the promptness, and exactness, with which that gentleman executed all his official duties. The sum of Forty dollars was voted as his compensation for the year, and a vote of thanks for his faithful services was unanimously adopted. This was the *stated* compensation of the secretary for a number of years.

The president and treasurer were appointed a committee to select an orator for the next Triennial Festival.

The secretary was directed to report the number and names of delinquents and the sums due from each. In the course of the year, this subject underwent the action of the government — some paid their bills at sight — some paid only in promises — the arrearages of some were remitted, — four were

discharged as unprofitable members, and four had leave to withdraw without payment of arrears.

Five subscribers to the funeral fund died this year, viz:— Jonathan Balch, William Andrews, Solomon Cotton, Francis Wright,* and James Eunson, to the families of each of whom the sum of Forty dollars was presented by the treasurer. Mrs. Cotton, the widow of Solomon Cotton, returned to the treasurer the sum granted to her, with a request that it might be added to the fund, — which was accepted, and a respectful letter addressed to the donor therefor.

The committee appointed to select an orator for the Triennial Festival, reported in favor of the vice-president. The report was accepted by the government, and a committee was appointed to inform that officer of the appointment. No report from this committee appears on the record. At the government meeting, September 24, John Fairbanks, a newly admitted member, was chosen to deliver the address, and accepted the appointment.

A committee of arrangements for the festival was appointed at the quarterly meeting in September, consisting of the government and the following members, viz:—Jonathan Hunewell, John Cotton, Samuel Curtis, John Tuckerman, Joseph Badger, Benjamin Darling, Joseph Batson, James Cutler, David Francis, and James B. Marston. The committee held its first meeting, September 30, and was arranged into sub-committees, to provide a dinner, to present invita-

* Francis Wright became a member of the association in March, 1800, was elected its treasurer in 1801, and served acceptably in that capacity seven years. He was, by trade, a tobacconist, and was connected in that business with General Simon Eliot. He held, under the authority of the commonwealth, the offices of inspector of tobacco, and inspector of butter and lard. By the votes of his fellow-townsmen, he held the offices of selectman and fire-ward. He was a deacon of the church in Federal-street, in connection with three of its pastors, viz. Rev. Jeremy Belknap, Rev John S. Popkin, and Rev. William E. Channing. He died June 7, 1812, aged 56. At a meeting of the selectmen, on the day succeeding his death, it was voted, as a testimony of respect to the memory of their deceased associate at the board, to attend his funeral, and to request the attendance also of the Overseers of the Poor, the School Committee, the Board of Health, the Fire-wards, and all other town officers. The members of the association generally also attended the funeral. "We have seldom, (said the editor of the Columbian Centinel,) recorded the death of a fellow-citizen, who lived more beloved and respected in all the walks of life, and who has died more sincerely regretted by all who knew him, than Deacon Wright."

tions, to provide music, to invite a chaplain, to prepare toasts and songs, &c. &c.

The annual meeting, December 17, was held in Faneuil Hall.

The appropriate committee made a detailed report of the receipts and expenditures during the year, and of the state of the funds; from which it appears that the property of the association, in bank stock, United States stock, cash in the treasurer's hands, and assessments ($521 62½) due from members, amounted to *Five thousand three hundred and ninety-six dollars and sixty-seven and a half cents.*

The committee recommended "That, at this inclement season of the year, when from the peculiar situation of our country, many of our industrious brethren are deprived of their usual employments, that the sum of ——— dollars ought to be distributed to the necessitous of the association." The report was unanimously accepted, and the blank ordered to be filled with the words "Two hundred."

The election of officers being in order, Mr. Messinger, the vice-president, and Mr. Renouf, the secretary, respectively declined a re-election. The following were then chosen, viz:—

Benjamin Russell, *President.* Joseph Lovering, *Treasurer.*
John Cotton, *Vice-President.* Joseph T. Buckingham, *Secretary.*

Gedney King, Gerry Fairbanks,
Benjamin Clark, John Doggett,
Jesse Mayo, John Tuckerman,
Samuel Hichborn, jun. James B. Marston,
Jonathan Harrington, *Trustees.*

Twelve members were added to the association this year, viz:—

Joshua Coates, Cabinet-Maker.
Stephen Dutch, Watch-maker.
Joshua James, Watch-maker.
William Loring, Cooper.
Johnson Brown, Jeweler.
Josiah Siders, Saddler.
John Fairbanks Clock-maker.
Caleb Hartshorn, Hatter.
Eleazer Nichols, Housewright.
George Domett, Saddler.
Francis Barrett, Chaise-maker.

At the conclusion of the ordinary business of the meeting, Capt. Gerry Fairbanks, as chief marshal, assisted by eight subordinates, formed a procession, and proceeded to the meet-

ing-house in Chauncey-place, — the standard of the society being borne by Captain Gedney King. The services here consisted of sacred music by the "Lock Hospital Society," prayers by the Rev. Mr. Holley, and an address by John Fairbanks, Esq.* The dinner which succeeded was at Con-

* At the commencement of his address, Mr. Fairbanks stated that his object would be "to trace the progress of the arts, — to illustrate the inventive faculties of the human mind, — and show how mechanical ingenuity has multiplied the blessings of life, civilized mankind, given power to the weak, preserved and adorned society, introduced rational liberty, and enabled man to live as becomes the dignity of his nature;" and he performed his self-prescribed task with as much fullness as the time usually allotted to an oration, permitted. Though chiefly narrative, it was not wanting in those rhetorical embellishments which are always attractive in a popular discourse. It was written and delivered a few months after the declaration of war against Great Britain in 1812, — a measure that was deeply obnoxious to reproach and censure from the Federal party, — and had a few political allusions that were not relished by some of the members. The concluding paragraphs, — addressed especially to the members of the association, — are annexed: —

"Gentlemen, members of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, the object of your institution is truly honorable and worthy of imitation. To send immediate pecuniary assistance to the family of a deceased member is an improvement in the principles of humanity; and is administering a consolation, which the world, though ready enough to take away, is seldom willing to give. In this society you regulate the concerns of your occupations, form valuable acquaintances, and interchange many of the endearing charities of life. The view we have taken of the condition of mankind at different periods of the world shows, that civilization and true glory advance with the improvements in the arts; and that, consequently, the ingenious mechanic holds an important station in society.

"These considerations will stimulate your exertions in the discharge of your duties as mechanics; and as citizens of the only free republic on earth, whose independence ought not to suffer a dependence on foreign manufactures for the necessary articles of life. As in Europe, so here, the gentleman and scholar should consider his education incomplete, without a knowledge of the mechanic arts; and until he had rendered himself a proficient artist in some of their useful branches. This union of theory and practice is necessary to the perfection of mechanical operations.

"America now opens a wide field for ingenuity and enterprize, where the imagination ranges for centuries to come, and contemplates with anxiety the expectations posterity will have a right to form of the years succeeding the glorious era of Washington. Like him they expect government will protect commerce and encourage the mechanic arts, as these will best reward the farmer for his labors: For the sacrifice of one of these branches of industry will inevitably ruin the prosperity of the other. Of this rulers should be convinced without making the experiment. Their views should not be local, but should embrace the whole community, penetrate futurity, and calculate what the effects of their measures will be for ages to come—when America shall count her fifty millions of people—and Mexico perhaps be the seat of a mighty empire, and a canal through the isthmus of Darien, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, make her ports the emporium of the whole world.

"What ought now to be done to make this age worthy of remembrance *then*? Discard the pitiful party politics of the day, which make enemies of those who ought to be friends. Destroy your undue attachments and prejudices to foreign nations, or they

cert Hall, and was accompanied, as usual, with toasts, songs, speeches, and sentiments.

At a special meeting of the government, December 23, a committee was appointed to procure the printing of Three hundred copies of Mr. Fairbanks's address.

It was also voted, "that a committee of the government, to consist of three members, one residing near the centre of the town and one at each extremity, be appointed to receive and examine applications from indigent members for relief, and to draw on the treasurer for such sums, not exceeding Ten dollars to any one applicant, in favor of such persons as they shall think proper, — not to exceed Two hundred dollars in the whole sum drawn for." John Cotton, Gedney King, and Gerry Fairbanks were appointed on this committee, — the style of which was ordered to be "The committee of relief."

Another vote of the government instructed the secretary to assess Two dollars on each and every member of the association, who did not join in the recent celebration and pay for his ticket of admission, agreeably to the constitution, —

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will destroy you. The friendship of France has already done you more injury than the open hostility of England. Yes, France presents to your lips the poisoned cup of her affection, says, "she dearly loves you," tries to make you believe it, picks your pocket before your face, then like an artful courtezan leaves you in disgrace, the object of your own contempt, too much weakened to fight your open enemy with success.

"Away then with this solemn mockery at your nation's rights. At once prefer to fall, if fall you must, by the sword of an open enemy than by the pretended friendship of one that is secret. Like a band of brothers unite, let the wisest and brightest among you, instead of the *ignorant* and *wicked*, guide and direct your energies; Heaven will then prosper your ways; and you will have nothing to fear so long as three thousand miles of ocean roll between you and the tented fields of Europe.

"Commerce you will have, because it is your birthright, and must be the inheritance of your children. Manufactures and the arts must flourish, for the genius of America demands it to render the people independent by their own industry.

"Skillful workmen, in wisdom unite, and again build up the walls of your political Jerusalem, that faction, folly, and weakness may no longer find an entrance into the sacred temple of your freedom; nor again pollute the altars of your political religion. Then shall the daughters * of the American Zion † shout in songs of joy; for behold the days of your Washington will return to cheer the land with peace and prosperity; and make unborn millions with gratitude remember the happiness you prepared for them. — Hail golden years, again begin, and never, never cease to roll!"

* The states † The union.

and that he employ the messenger to collect it. This measure of the government produced much dissatisfaction among the members who were subjected to its operation. Some of them exhibited their resentment by withdrawing their membership. In some cases the assessment was remitted, on the representation of sufficient or suitable cause for the neglect of a plain and positive provision of the constitution.

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## 1813.

The records of the government exhibit evidence of great devotion to the interests of the association. Decisive measures were adopted to collect over-due assessments, — to purge the body of unworthy and refractory members, — to afford relief to such as were in need, — and to increase and protect the funds. The arrearages of several members were remitted on account of their inability to pay. The names of two were erased for refusing to comply with the requisitions of the constitution concerning their admission, and several others were stricken from the books on account of long and unaccounted-for neglect. A new messenger (Nathaniel Emmes, sen.) was appointed in place of Moses Thayer, who had served the society in that capacity for fifteen years, and had become incapacitated by age and infirmity for further service. The committee of relief distributed about Seventy dollars to applicants for charity. It does not appear that any draft was made on the funeral fund during the year.

That clause of the constitution, which provides that the expenses of the triennial festival shall be defrayed by an assessment on all the members, proved to be a cause of great dissatisfaction with many of the members, and was sometimes met with an obstinate refusal to pay. At the annual meeting in December, the refusal of certain members to pay was taken up, and discussed with some asperity; but a vote was passed by a large majority, requesting "the government to compel the payment of the assessment in such cases as they may judge expedient."

An order was passed directing the printing of three hundred copies of the constitution, with a revised catalogue of the officers and members attached thereto, and that each member be entitled to a copy, paying therefor twelve and a half cents.

The report of the committee on the secretary and treasurer's accounts, prepared by Messrs. John Doggett, Jesse Mayo, and Jonathan Harrington, presented the following aggregates, viz:

| | |
|---|---|
| Collected by the secretary, for the general fund, . . . . | $557 67½ |
| " " for the funeral fund, . . . . | 172 12½ |
| Received from G. Blanchard, a donation, . . . . . | 5 00 |
| | $734 80 |
| The amount passed into the treasurer's hands in the course of the year, was . . . . . | $1,409 89 |
| From which he paid out on warrants, . . . . . | 1,352 62 |
| And had a balance remaining of . . . . . | $57 27 |

By instructions from the government, the treasurer had borrowed, from the funeral fund, Four hundred dollars, to pay installments on the shares in the State Bank.

It does not appear that any subscriber to the funeral fund died this year.

With the concurrence of the government, the secretary had made great exertion to obtain subscriptions to the funeral fund, from the members who had not already become subscribers thereto. In the course of the year he had obtained the subscriptions of sixteen. It was desirable that *all* the members should become subscribers to this fund, in order that it might be incorporated with the general fund, and thus relieve both the secretary and treasurer from the necessity of keeping two separate accounts.

The officers for the succeeding year were chosen, as follows: —

Benjamin Russell, *President.* Joseph Lovering, *Treasurer.*
John Cotton, *Vice-President.* Joseph T. Buckingham, *Secretary.*

Samuel Hichborn, James B. Marston,
Jonathan Harrington, William Harris,
Gerry Fairbanks, David Francis,
John Doggett, Isaiah Atkins,
John Tuckerman, *Trustees.*

Messrs. John Cotton, Gerry Fairbanks, Gedney King, Christopher Smith, and Job Drew, were chosen a committee of relief, with power to distribute Two hundred dollars, to such members as they should deem proper subjects for charity.

Nine candidates were admitted: —

| | |
|---|---|
| Charles C. Nichols, Tailor. | Benjamin True, Printer. |
| William Goodwin, Bookbinder. | Jacob Todd, Baker. |
| Nathaniel Emmons, Gunsmith. | John Kreuger, Harness-maker. |
| Nathaniel Emmons, jun. Gunsmith. | James Adams. |
| Thomas Rowe, Printer. | |

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# 1814.

The appointment of the proper committees, for the year, remission of dues, and projects for collecting outstanding assessments, occupied, as usual, the first meeting of the government.

Certain gentlemen in Boston had petitioned the Legislature for a bank charter, and, — supposing that the influence of the mechanic interest, if enlisted in their behalf, might be useful in aid of their project, — had passed the following vote, which the president of the association communicated to the government, at a special meeting, January 27: —

"Voted, unanimously, that Two thousand shares of the capital stock be placed at the disposal of the Mechanic Association, to be disposed of by them to the mechanics of the town of Boston, &c. in such manner as the officers of that association may deem advisable."

After explanation and deliberation, the government voted to accept of the disposal of the shares, agreeably to the vote of the petitioners; and also that the president be requested to procure from the said petitioners, one or two thousand shares in addition to those already offered.

The secretary reminded the government that the limited period for which the association was incorporated, had nearly expired; and a committee was appointed to apply to the Legislature for a renewal of the charter. The committee per-

formed the service, and obtained an extension of the charter for ten years after the expiration of its present term.

Another special meeting of the government was held on the 31st of January. The president reported that he had not succeeded in his exertions to procure any additional shares in the Manufacturers and Mechanics Bank. The treasurer was directed to subscribe for Two hundred shares in behalf of the association; and he was authorized to deposite any of the stocks belonging to the association in any of the banks in Boston, to enable him to pay the first installment on the shares in the new bank.

A committee, consisting of the treasurer, the secretary, and Gerry Fairbanks, was appointed to receive the subscriptions of the members, individually, for such number of shares as each might wish to take.

At the regular government meeting, February 9, several subjects of a temporary character were discussed, and referred for definite action to future meetings. At the special request of a member, his dues were remitted, and his name erased from the books. The committee which had in charge the subscriptions for the bank shares reported progress.

There were, at this time, but four banks in Boston, — the Massachusetts, the Union, the Boston, and the State, — and there was a great struggle to obtain shares in the new one. As it had been decided by the government to dispose of their Two thousand shares to none but members of the association, applications for membership became numerous, and somewhat pressing. The government, therefore, after special meetings to examine the claims of candidates, on the 16th and 17th of February, called a special meeting of the association on the 19th, for the purpose of balloting, when forty-five candidates were admitted; most of whom were induced to join the association for the privilege of taking shares in the new bank, and several of them withdrew their membership in the course of two or three years.

On the subject of delinquent members, the committee having the matter in charge, submitted to the quarterly meeting in March the following reports by their chairman, Mr. Gerry Fairbanks, viz: —

. . . . "That, in accordance with that benevolence and charity which are the fundamental principles of our institution, every indulgence should be given to those members of it, who are rendered by misfortune unable to pay their very moderate assessments. Their just pride and their feelings should be respected with the most scrupulous care. To such, on representation of their case, either personally or by their friends, the government are authorized to remit arrearages, and, if necessary, grant other relief. From want of this application, assessments have remained undischarged from year to year, until the sums have become comparatively large, and the unfortunate and the negligent have become confounded together, — for the government, in some instances, have been unable to distinguish between them. But while the association discharges with fidelity its duty towards its members, it expects them in return to do theirs; — among which a punctual payment of assessments is a very prominent one; and in order to distinguish between the negligent and the unfortunate, the committee submit the following vote, viz: —

. . . . "That if any member of the society shall neglect to pay his assessments for *eight quarters*, or make a representation of his inability so to do, it shall be the duty of the president to direct the secretary to notify such delinquent, by letter or otherwise, that, unless within *thirty days* he shall pay his arrearages or represent his inability to do so, his name will be erased from the books; and it shall be the duty of the government, annually, to remit the dues of members unable to pay, whose particular cases may be represented to them."

In pursuance of this vote, the arrearages of fifteen members, amounting in all to Eighty-eight dollars and seventy-eight cents, were remitted, thirteen of whom were voted to be no longer members. The accounts of fifteen other members were placed in the hands of the committee, to be disposed of according to their judgement. The committee were authorized to employ a solicitor, and appointed John Fairbanks, Esq. to that office. Several bills were placed in his hands for collection, one of which was put in suit, and the suit afterwards withdrawn on the delinquent promising to pay the cost. From two of the delinquents the solicitor collected the amount of their arrearages. Against one other an execution was issued, — which, it is believed, was never enforced.

Some of the stocks were sold by a committee, in order to meet the installments on the shares in the Manufacturers and Mechanics Bank. The treasurer reported (as recapitulated by the auditing committee at the annual meeting, December 15,) that the property of the association then consisted of

| | |
|---|---|
| One hundred shares in the Manufacturers and Mechanics Bank, on which $50 a share had been paid, . . . | $5,000 00 |
| Balance in treasurer's hands, of general fund, . . . | 22 46 |
| " " of funeral fund, . . . | 291 38½ |
| " " permanent fund, . . . | 5 00 |
| United States six per cent. stock, . . . . . | 561 86 |
| | $5,880 70½ |
| Of this sum he had received from the secretary, for assessments, entrance fees, certificates, festival tickets, address, and constitutions, . . . . . | $596 67 |
| There was then due to the general fund, an aggregate amount of Three hundred and seventy-seven dollars and thirty-nine cents, which, with Forty-five dollars unexpended by the committee of relief, made up the sum of . . . . | $6,303 11 |

A vote of the government, that the assessments in favor of the funeral fund should thereafter be Twenty-five cents, was ratified by the association.

Nathaniel Heard, cordwainer, died near the beginning of the year, and being a single man, having neither widow nor children, it became a question to whom the claim of Forty dollars on the funeral fund should be paid. A letter, representing the facts in the case was transmitted to the secretary, by John Heard, 3d, in whose family the deceased member was a boarder at the time of his death. The subject was referred to a committee, whose report will appear in the annals of the succeeding year. Only one draft on the funeral fund had been made, during the year, which was in favor of the widow of John Fairbanks.*

* Mr. Fairbanks died November 20, 1814. He was born in Grafton, Mass. August 13, 1777. His father, Isaiah Fairbanks, was a respectable farmer. The son received all the advantages which the schools of his native town afforded, and a year's tuition at the academy in Framingham. Early in life he exhibited a taste for mechanics, and soon after leaving the academy, to gratify his taste, he was placed as an apprentice with Simon Willard of Boston, the celebrated clock-maker of that time. At the expiration of his apprenticeship, in 1798, he had fully prepared himself for admission to Harvard college. He presented himself for examination and was admitted. He was a faithful student, and pursued with unremitting industry the study of mechanics, as a science. He graduated in 1802, with a class which embraced an uncommon number of eminent scholars. The expenses of his education at college he paid from the product of his labor at repairing and making clocks, and in other branches of mechanical ingenuity, during the college vacations, and hours not indispensably devoted to the course of college studies. In 1803 he invented the "Cylindrical Paper-Ruling Machine," for which he obtained a patent. In this year, too, he married, and commenced

The business of the year was closed by the election of the following officers, viz: —

Benjamin Russell, *President.* Joseph Lovering, *Treasurer.*
John Cotton, *Vice-President.* Joseph T. Buckingham, *Secretary.*

John Doggett, Isaiah Atkins,
John Tuckerman, Joseph Jones,
James B. Marston, Isaac Harris,
William Harris, Winslow Lewis,
David Francis, *Trustees.*

*Committee of Relief:* — John Cotton, John Tuckerman, Gedney King, Christopher Smith, and Job Drew.

Members admitted : —

Ebenezer T. Andrews, Printer.
Thomas Furber, Printer.
Edmund Munroe, Printer.
John Pickens, Printer.
Benjamin Loring, Bookbinder.
Josiah Loring, Bookbinder.
Thomas Bradlee, Bookbinder.
Daniel Munroe, Jeweler.
Samuel Davis, Jeweler.
Samuel Edes, Baker.
John Dodd, Tobacconist.
George Archbald, Cabinet-maker.
Benjamin Bass, Cabinet-maker.
James Barker, Cabinet-maker.

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the study of law in the office of Benjamin Whitman, Esq. — trusting, in the mean time, to his industry and ingenuity in the clock-making business for the payment of his personal expenses and the support of his family. In 1806 he was admitted to the bar, opened an office, and obtained a respectable share of business, transacted chiefly in the office, and in cases involving patent rights. When law did not occupy his whole attention, his inventive genius was active, and generally successful. Among the products of his mechanical ingenuity were a machine for cutting shoe pegs, which proved useful to those engaged in the production of that article, and which is still in use : — and an astronomical clock, (valued by him at Five hundred dollars,) now (1853) running at the store of Messrs. Jones, Poor, & Ball. Models of machines for heading cut-nails, and for spinning and weaving, were left at his death. The ruling machine has been said to have "done more for the encouragement of paper-making [paper of a certain quality must be meant] than any other invention." The statistics of income from this invention are not easily to be obtained ; but it is said, by those who have the best means of knowing, that it is not less than Five thousand dollars a year. Mr. Fairbanks was a member of the Masonic fraternity, and, both within and without the pale of that association, was esteemed as an honorable, upright and benevolent man. He was also a military man, and held the rank of captain in the militia. He was quite celebrated as a drill officer ; and, but a few weeks previous to his death, — when it was thought necessary to prepare the militia to meet and repel any attack that might be made by the British forces on the soil of Massachusetts, — he was almost daily engaged in exercising various companies in military tactics. "In passing from literature to mechanics, his superior mind did not *descend.* So much intellect was blended with corporeal labor, that, in him, the art partook of science, and the ingenuity of the contrivance gave character to the work" Panting with intense desire for the attainment of knowledge, he never tired nor rested in the pursuit, but felt the "ruling passion strong in death."

lackman, Cabinet-maker.
ilds, Sailmaker.
Curtis, Clock-dial-manufac-
Villard, jun. Clock-maker.
el Munroe, Concord, Clock-
Jones, Watch-maker.
Baker, Roxbury, Currier.
Patten, Currier.
Crafts, Saddler.
S. Read, Saddler.
Bugbee, Hairdresser.
oke, Tailor.
Clapp, Tailor.
Kendall, Tailor.
Fay, Distiller.
axon, Edge-tool-maker.
Hastings, Newton, Stone-
Hughes, Hatter.
Iendley, Tinplate-worker.
Jackson, Tallow-chandler.
George Jackson, Tallow-Chandler.
Winslow Lewis, Manufacturer of Illuminators.
Charles Miller, Roxbury, Carver and Gilder.
Elisha Penniman, Pin-manufacturer.
Samuel Reeves, Druggist.
Paul Spear, jun. Druggist.
Jeremiah P. Smith, Roxbury, Painter and Glazier.
Samuel S. Williams, Roxbury, Carver and Gilder.
Daniel Perry, Bridgewater, Cotton-manufacturer.
Rolun Hartshorn, Carpenter.
Daniel Wise, Boot-and-Shoe-maker.
Josiah Bisbee, Jeweler.
Jonathan Williams, Leather-dresser.
Clark Brewer, Tobacconist.
Erastus A. Lord, Bookbinder.
Samuel Bell, Bricklayer.
Joseph S. Hastings, Porcelain-manufacturer.

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## 1815.

committee to whom had been referred the article of stitution concerning appropriations from the funeral ıd the letter of Mr. J. Heard, reported that the second of the article concerning the funds should be so ed as to read thus: — "Whenever a subscriber to the es, it shall be the duty of the president, vice-president, o trustees, to notify and direct the treasurer to pay to *low*, the *family*, or the *legal representative* of the de- subscriber, Forty dollars, to be accompanied with a f condolence; and where there is no widow, family, or presentative, then to the person or persons, who shall ıke to conduct the funeral of the deceased." The re- ıs accepted by the government, and afterwards ratified eeting of the association.

Another attempt was made to expunge from the constitution that provision which makes it imperative that there shall be a public festival every third year. It was referred to a committee of nine members, — William Harris, Jonathan Hunewell, Henry Purkitt, John Cotton, John Tuckerman, Daniel Messinger, Gerry Fairbanks, Oliver Johonnot, and James Phillips. Some months after their appointment, the committee reported, that it was inexpedient to make any alteration in the article; — and their report was accepted.

The arrearages of several members were remitted. The names of three delinquents were expunged from the catalogue of members.

A committee appointed to select a person to deliver an address at the next triennial festival, made choice of the secretary, who consented to perform that service.

A committee of arrangements for the festival was appointed at the quarterly meeting in September, consisting of the government and ten other members, viz. Jonathan Hunewell, Daniel Messinger, Henry Purkitt, Gerry Fairbanks, Thomas Howe, Oliver Johonnot, Gedney King, Thomas Wells, Samuel Tuttle, and Samuel Hichborn, jun.

The treasurer called the attention of the government to the funds. He remarked, "if the three funds could be consolidated in one, the labor of the secretary and treasurer, in keeping accounts, would be greatly lessened, and the association be materially benefited; — that the money received from time to time might be invested in seven per cent. stock: and, if money were at any time wanted for contingencies, it might be obtained at six per cent." The president said, — "According to the constitution, the funeral fund could not be united to the general fund, till all the original members had become subscribers thereto." On recurring to the books, it appeared that there were twenty-six who had never so subscribed. Of these it appeared that five had been for a long time delinquent, and their names were ordered to be erased. It was then voted, that the members of the government should make personal application to the others and solicit their subscription, in order to effect so desirable and beneficial an object as the incorporation of the three funds into one.

At the last meeting of the government, previous to the festival, the president informed the government that he had a letter from a member of the association, requesting that tickets for the dinner might be sent to all such of the brethren as should find it inconvenient to pay the usual assessment therefor, and that the bill be sent to him for payment, — "in order that he might have the pleasure of seeing every member participate in the enjoyment of the occasion." The request was granted and a suitable acknowledgement returned to the benefactor, who was presumed to be Mr. Hunewell.

The treasurer then stated that he had been requested by another member (name not communicated) to make a similar proposal. The object having been anticipated, the treasurer was requested to present the thanks of the government to his friend, and state to him the reasons for not accepting his generous offer.

At the same meeting, at the request of the secretary, Thomas Wells was appointed assistant secretary for the approaching annual meeting.

The first business, as usual, at the annual meeting, was the presentation of the report of the auditing committee on the secretary and treasurer's accounts. The details of the report are numerous and minute, and represent the property of the association, consisting of bank and United States stock, cash on hand, and debts due from members, as amounting to Six thousand six hundred and twenty-five dollars and twenty-four cents. The sums paid out from the general fund, for various contingent expenses, and to refund the sum formerly borrowed from the funeral fund, amounted to more than Six hundred dollars. From the funeral fund there had been paid to the administrator of Nathaniel Heard, and to the widows of Timothy Green, Nathan Pratt, Thomas K. Emery, and Jonas Childs, (members deceased during the year,) Forty dollars each, making in the whole Two hundred dollars.

Eleven candidates were admitted to membership during the year: —

William Badger, Brass-founder. Oliver Downing, Housewright.
Augustus O. Barton, Housewright. Eldad Brown, Housewright.

Joseph Nash, Sailmaker.
John Green, jun. Painter.
James Barry, jun. Cooper.
Asa Bugbee, Painter and Glazier.
Edward Adams, Ropemaker.
John Daniel, Whip-maker.
Samuel Adams, Tin-plate-worker

Officers elected for the next year: —

Benjamin Russell, *President.*
John Cotton, *Vice-President.*
Joseph Lovering, *Treasurer.*
Joseph T. Buckingham, *Secretary.*

William Harris,
David Francis,
Isaiah Atkins,
Joseph Jones,
Isaac Harris,
Winslow Lewis,
Elijah Mears,
Joseph Milner,
Edward Gray,
*Trustees.*

John Cotton, Oliver Johonnot, Benjamin Clark, Christopher Smith, and Job Drew, — *Committee of Relief.*

The committee of arrangements held four meetings previous to the festival to make the necessary preparations. The order of their proceeding was not essentially different from that adopted on former similar occasions. The number of gentlemen invited to join in the celebration was larger than had been customary, as will be seen. They were, His Excellency Caleb Strong, Governor; His Honor William Phillips, Lieutenant-Governor; Hon. John Phillips, President of the Senate; Hon. Timothy Bigelow, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Chief Justice Parker; Judges Story and Davis, of the United States Court; James Prince, District Marshal; Judges Otis and Dawes, of the Boston Common Pleas and Municipal Courts; the Board of Selectmen and Town Clerk; the President of the Board of Health; Rev. Messrs. Freeman, Channing, Sharp, and Frothingham; Messrs. William Gray, Israel Thorndike, James Perkins, and John Coffin Jones, of the mercantile interest; Hon. Artemas Ward, Representative in Congress; Brigadier-General Arnold Welles, and his Staff, Majors L. M. Sargeant and William Shimmin; Major-General Ripley, and Staff, of the United States Army; Commodores Hull, Bainbridge, and Chauncey, and Captains Jones, Morris, Sinclair, and Ridgely, of the United States Navy; Henry A. S. Dearborn, Collector of the Port; and Amos Binney, Navy Agent. Most of this formidable array of guests attended the celebration.

The public services connected with the festival were performed at the meeting-house in Chauncey-place, and consisted of hymns by the choir, prayers, and lessons from scripture, by Rev. N. L. Frothingham, an address by J. T. Buckingham, and an ode written for the occasion, by Mr. James Ellison.*

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* ODE.

When Fancy, bright queen, in the East held her reign,
And Jove on her throne sat in proud elevation —
Truth smil'd, as she heard him *divinity* claim,
For 'twas Art, led by Genius, that gave him creation.
Then to Phidias's shrine
Let great Ammon incline —
'Twas the *chisel's* enchantment inscrib'd him divine!
Hail, ye sons of the Arts! whose efforts, combined
With the visions of Genius, gave gods to mankind.

When bigoted Tyranny Europe enthralled,
And Peace, whelmed in blood, looked in vain for defenders,
Faust erected his throne — Superstition, appalled,
Fled the spot which the Press had illumed with its splendors.
Reason triumphed again —
Seized her sceptre and rein,
And the Passions, abashed, mov'd again in her train.
Then resuscitant Art exulted to find
That her reign had commenced with the reign of the mind.

Where the Temples of Piety now proudly stand,
The *wigwams* of nature's sons spoke desolation;
Where the savage-built pyre once gleamed round the land,
Has arisen a World of Mechanic creation.
Then to Art be the lay,
Whose luminous ray
O'er our primeval night shed the lustre of day —
For the Mechanist's brow twine the laurel of fame,
For Columbia to him owes the *base* of her name.

Science, aided by Art, Architecture designed,
Whence the Doric appeared in the lofty-built tower;
Whose *shaft* and whose *capital* show to mankind,
The emblems of Taste and the symbols of Power.
Then in order we trace,
'Mong the fair Grecian race,
The Ionic, inclining to beauty and grace —
Whose curvated *volutes* their beauties impart,
While its richly decked *base* shews the triumph of Art.

Nor less the Corinthian, so sprightly and gay,
That shines in the ball room, or graces the palace;
With its *leaves of Acanthus*, in splendid array,
Its *garlands* and *cherubs*, *modillions* and *chalice* —

At the close of the festival, the president announced the receipt of a donation of Fifty dollars from the Hon. William Gray, and another of One hundred dollars from His Honor William Phillips, for the benevolent purposes of the institution.

The cost of this celebration was something more than Seven hundred dollars, the principal part of which was defrayed by the sale of tickets. Three hundred copies of the secretary's address were printed, by order of the association, and a copy sent to every member, beside the usual number to the author and the officers.

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Like the belle, whose attire,
Decked by taste, we admire,
With *fascia* and *friezes*, each bosom to fire —
With *beads* and *cymatiums*, a beauty she moves,
Like Venus, fair queen, with her graces and doves.

All hail, Archimedes! our patron and guide,
Thou pupil of Genius, and child of Invention —
Who raised, with thy *lever*, vast fleets from the tide,
And lulled, by thy power, the storm of contention.
Immortal 's thy claim
To the honors of fame,
And shall live, while the earth, *thou couldst move*, has a name.
Hark! again in our clime is the sound of delight,
And *Industry* charms, as it breaks on the sight.

Blest Land of our Fathers! bright heiress of fame!
No longer Bellona invites to commotion;
The olive of Peace now encircles thy name,
Thy flag rides in triumph the high-swelling ocean,
'Mid the blessings of peace,
May the Arts still increase,
Till Columbia shall rival the proud days of Greece! —
May the Ark of thy Commerce be borne to each clime,
And the fame of thy Tars be as lasting as Time!

And Thou, mighty Architect! Lord of the skies!
Thou Framer of earth, and the Artist of heaven!
To Thee let our love and our gratitude rise,
By whom were the Arts and the Sciences given —
Who, from chaotic night,
First called to the sight
A Work of perfection, a World of delight —
And Virtue and Charity sent from above,
To bind us together in Friendship and Love.

# 1816.

A committee was appointed, at the first government meeting, to see what measures could be adopted for the assistance and relief of the families of those who had forfeited their membership. A report on the subject was discussed at a subsequent meeting, and the government voted unanimously to submit the following by-law to the association at its next quarterly meeting, viz:—

"Applications for charity, made by the families of persons who have been members of the association, but have forfeited their claims to the funds thereof, shall be made to the standing committee of relief, who shall report the situation and circumstances of the applicants to the government at its next meeting; and, if approved by two thirds of the members present, not less than a quorum, the said committee shall be authorized to grant relief as in other cases. *Provided, however,* That in cases of extreme distress, the committee be authorized to grant immediate relief, not exceeding Five dollars to any one family."

This was accepted by the association, March 21, and was recorded as one of the standing by-laws of the association; in consequence of which several families were immediately relieved from distress.

Suggestions had been made to the president by several gentlemen, on the utility of establishing a professorship of the mechanic arts, and the aid of the association solicited. The subject was referred to the president, vice-president, and secretary, to receive, consider, and communicate to the association any propositions that might be received in regard to the subject. The matter was discussed by the committee, but they received no proposal which seemed to be practicable, and no further action was at that time deemed necessary.

The attempt to procure the signatures of all the members to the funeral fund, was continued, and, at length, was successful. Every member, except one, became a subscriber to the fund, and that one signified his willingness that the funeral and general funds should be united. Agreeably, therefore, to the constitution, the funds were consolidated;—

a measure of great relief to the secretary and treasurer in the keeping of their accounts.

At the house of the president, December 14, a special meeting of the government was held, and, the secretary being absent, Mr. Francis was appointed to record the proceedings. "The meeting was called in consequence of a letter received by the vice-president, as chairman of the committee on accounts, — from the secretary, stating his present inability to pay over to the treasurer the balance of the money received by him during the year. The vice-president, and Messrs. Harris and Francis were appointed a committee to consult with the secretary, and adopt any measures they may deem necessary to secure the association against any eventual loss, in case the inability of the secretary to pay continued." *

Mr. Francis was requested to act as secretary till one should be chosen by the association.

The report of the committee on accounts, presented at the annual meeting, stated that the entire property of the association consisted of the following items, viz: —

| | |
|---|---|
| Old six per cent.stock, | $297 73 |
| Fifty bank shares, | 5,000 00 |
| Seven per cent. stock, | 200 00 |
| Six per cent. stock, | 600 00 |
| Cash on hand, | 86 56 |
| T. B. Wait & Son's note, | 150 00 |
| J. T. Buckingham's note, | 98 14 |
| J. Callender's note, | 2 83 |
| W. Callender's note, | 10 75 |
| John Trask's note, | 6 75 |
| Interest due on stocks and bank dividends, | 62 97 |
| Due from members, | 433 75 |
| | $6,944 48 |

* This committee reported, at a meeting on the 18th of December, "that they found a balance due from secretary, which it was not convenient for him to settle immediately. They have taken a note, signed by Messrs. T. B. Wait & Sons, for One hundred and fifty dollars, on interest, and the secretary's note for One hundred and thirty-eight dollars and fourteen cents, for the balance. They further report, that when the usual salary shall be granted to the secretary for his services the past year, the balance due the association will be reduced to Ninety-eight dollars and fourteen cents."

Gershom Spear, Joseph Starr, and James Dawson, subscribers to the funeral fund, deceased during the year. Five members withdrew from the association, and the names of three were erased by direction of the government. Eight were admitted to membership: —

| | |
|---|---|
| Samuel Yendall, Boat-builder. | Alexander Vannever, Cooper. |
| William Burdick, Printer. | Jacob Barstow, Cooper. |
| George S. Fairbanks, Baker. | Daniel Clapp, Cooper. |
| Enoch Hobart, Tailor. | Joseph Allen, Baker. |

One of these persons had been formerly a member, and his name had been erased from the books on account of delinquency and his dues remitted. The propriety of his re-admission was discussed, when it was unanimously voted, that nothing further be required of him, in a pecuniary way, to re-admit him to membership, than the payment of the usual fees.

The officers for the succeeding year were elected, as follows: —

| | |
|---|---|
| Benjamin Russell, *President.* | Joseph Lovering, *Treasurer.* |
| John Cotton, *Vice-President.* | David Francis, *Secretary.* |
| Joseph Jones, | Edward Gray, |
| Isaac Harris, | Joab Hunt, |
| Winslow Lewis, | Caleb Hartshorn, |
| Elijah Mears, | Benjamin T. Wells, |
| Joseph Milner, | *Trustees.* |

The committee of relief of the past year was re-elected.

It was voted, "that it shall be the duty of the secretary, at each monthly meeting of the government, subsequent to each quarterly or annual meeting of the association, to furnish the government with the account of money received by him, and pay the same to the treasurer." *

* It had not hitherto been the practice for the secretary to pay over his collections to the treasurer (unless applied to by that officer) but once in a year, or six months. The passage of this vote was obviously proper.

# 1817.

The records of this year possess more than common interest. Six members, namely, Jonathan Kilton, Caswell Beal,* Richard Austin,† Moses Thayer, James B. Marston,‡ and William Breed‖ died during the year, and to the family of each the treasurer paid the sum of Forty dollars.

Six members withdrew from the association. Twelve were discharged with arrearages remitted. The arrearages of nine others were remitted and they were allowed to retain their membership. One hundred and thirty dollars were distributed in charity by the committee of relief, and they were authorized to draw on the treasurer for Two hundred more. The government voted Twenty dollars to a member who had suffered a severe loss by fire, — that being the largest sum that

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* Caswell Beal was a native of Hingham — served an apprenticeship with a tailor in Boston, and carried on the business, for a few years, in the Old State-house. He was an active and zealous politician, — and an amiable companion at all social festivals. He was somewhat ambitious of military distinction, and was a captain in the militia, and an ensign in the Ancient and Honorable Artillery. He died of consumption at New-Orleans, whither he had gone for the benefit of his health.

† Richard Austin made a considerable property in the early part of his life by practising the business of a pewterer, when that business was a lucrative branch of manufacture. But, about the commencement of the present century, pewter platters, plates, and spoons, were pushed out of fashion by China and silver ware. Probably not many of the present reading generation have ever seen the *dressers* of affluent citizens glistening with the rows of dazzling dishes, and their tables sparkling with the gems of well-scoured and brilliant pewter. When his business declined, he formed a copartnership, and followed the business of a broker, which, in the end proved disastrous, owing, it has been said, entirely to the mismanagement of his partner. For some years he was severely afflicted with a disease of the bladder, to remedy which he submitted to a painful but ineffectual operation. He died in 1817, highly respected as a man of honor, honesty, and liberality, and deeply regretted by his friends and acquaintance. The usual sum paid from the funeral fund was returned by Mrs. Austin, and credited to her as a donation.

‡ James B Marston made a considerable figure among militia officers, and rose to the rank of captain. He was, for some years, a partner with John Cotton in the painting business He died August 23, about forty years of age.

‖ William Breed, at the commencement of the Siege of Boston, managed to remove his family from the town, but was himself detained by the British officers, and continued the business of baking. He accumulated an independent fortune. In his will he bequeathed a legacy of One thousand dollars to the association, to be paid on the decease of his widow. His portrait was presented to the association by his kinsman, William W. Clapp, and is now suspended in the library room of the institution.

the government could grant to one individual; the association, at a subsequent meeting, instructed the treasurer to present to the same member the further sum of Thirty dollars.

An application for a loan of Thirty dollars from the funds was referred to a committee of the government, who reported that it was inexpedient to grant the request.

The bills of delinquent members, according to custom, were distributed among the members of the government for collection.

In the month of June the President of the United States, James Monroe, made a tour through the New-England states. Before his arrival in Boston, the members, at their quarterly meeting, "deeming it respectful for the association to pay to him their regards in a body," — and, as it was uncertain at what particular day it might be convenient for him to meet them, — it was voted, "That on the third day after his arrival, the members should assemble at the Exchange Coffee-House, and that the secretary give notice of the meeting in the public papers." The association accordingly met on the fifth of July, but the President was absent on a visit to Bunker-Hill, and the object of the meeting was defeated. It was then voted that the government, with such other members as might wish to unite with them, should be a committee to present their respects to the President. At the quarterly meeting in September, the president of the association reported "in behalf of the government, that, agreeably to the wishes of the association, expressed at a former meeting, they had taken occasion to wait upon the President of the United States, to pay him their respects and to congratulate him upon his visit to Boston, which was done on the afternoon of Sunday, the 6th of July, after divine service, it being the only time that could be found for the purpose, His Excellency being so perpetually engaged; which respects he very cordially received, and expressed his thanks for the honor which he said had been shown him."

In November the president, vice-president, and treasurer were appointed a committee "to prepare and present to the association, at the annual meeting, a report of the state of the

association, in regard to its funds, donations, &c. together with a brief statement of its design, with a view that the same may be made public." The report of this committee, made in accordance with the instructions of the government, at the annual meeting in December, was accepted and ordered to be inserted in the public papers. It here follows: —

EXPOSITION.

The association was instituted in the year 1795, and incorporated by act of the Legislature in 1806. During a lapse of near a quarter of a century the benefits of the association have been tested by the most happy experience.

The objects of the association, from its origin, have been *the diffusion of benevolence; the encouragement of improvements in the mechanic arts and manufactures; the reward of fidelity in apprentices;* and *the promotion of fellowship and good feeling among the associates.*

The first of these objects has always commanded paramount attention. Happily for our country and the association, for many years after their institution, the calls on the charity fund by the sons of indigence or misfortune were very few. During, however, the three years preceding the last, from the concurrence of a variety of circumstances, they have been numerous and heavy; but never heavier than the funds of the institution and the benevolence of the association were able and willing to sustain. During three years there were bestowed in extraordinary charities, *Thirteen hundred and forty-eight dollars and sixty cents.*

Of the permanent charities of the association, one description only need be mentioned. Since its institution, there have been dispensed to the widows, orphans, or friends of deceased members, no less a sum than *Eighteen hundred and eighty dollars.* This relief has always been as delicately bestowed as it has been timely and consolatory. The bereaved widow or relative has never been permitted to seek after it. The moment the mortality which occasioned the bereavement has reached the knowledge of any member of the association, that member has made it his duty to notify the treasurer of the event, and he has immediately repaired to the mansion of mourning, and, with the condolence of the government, has presented to the widow or nearest relative, the consoling relief. Those only who are eye-witnesses of the consolation which this attention affords can duly estimate its value. And, to the honor of those, whose circumstances did not need the relief, the money has been returned, with a request that it may be added to this peculiar fund of benevolence.

Among the standing officers of the institution is a Committee of Relief, always in activity, and never limited in their benefaction. It is enjoined on them to seek after, as well as to relieve, the sufferings of all in any way connected with the institution; particularly those whose delicacy prevents their intrusion on the committee.

The encouragement of improvements in mechanic arts and manufactures has never been lost sight of by the association; but the liberality of those entitled to premiums have induced them to prefer to seek their reward from public patronage than to lessen funds devoted to the relief of those to whom God has denied genius, and to the alleviation of the miseries of the feeble and unfortunate.

To reward the faithful apprentice, every young mechanic, who discharges his duty as such with fidelity, is entitled to a certificate, signed by the president and vice-president in behalf of the association, recommending him to the notice, encouragement, protection and patronage of all persons in all countries where he may sojourn. Numbers of these certificates have been granted, and it is stated with pleasure that they have been duly accredited in foreign countries as well as in all the United States, and have proved highly beneficial to the bearers of them. The government state with perfect freedom that the concerns of no institution are attended with more punctuality and decorum. The meetings of the government, monthly, are invariably held at their respective houses; have always been the scenes of uniform and uninterrupted harmony, useful conversation, good fellowship, and reciprocal attention and respect. The discharge of the business of the association is always first in order, and is completed in preference to any other concern.

The meetings of the association, it is known, are quarterly, when the very moderate assessments are paid to the funds. Very few expenses are incurred, and none but such as are indispensable. The funds have, annually, excepting when the calls of charity have been extremely imperious, gradually though slowly increased. They now amount to *Seven thousand four hundred and thirteen dollars and twenty-five cents.*

The funds are in the constant care of the treasurer, are regularly invested in the most productive stocks; the interest duly drawn and applied to the augmentation of the principal. It is gratifying to the government to add, that, in a long succession of treasurers, not a cent has been lost to the association by neglect or inattention; and that the fiscal affairs of no institution have ever been attended to with more sedulous fidelity.

The assessments are cheerfully, and, with few exceptions, punctually paid; and the government experience augmented pleasure in finding that there are so many who, from the earnings of industry and the savings of economy, readily bestow so much for the relief of brethren, whose lot has been cast in the valley of penury, and thus express their gratitude to HIM, whose blessing has enabled them to be the ministers of so much good.

The association has had frequent occasion to acknowledge with gratitude the receipt of numerous liberal donations from their highly respected fellow-citizens and associates; — particularly from some whose beneficent hands are always open to the relief of the children of merit and misfortune. During the last year, they have also received and acknowledged a very liberal bequest of a departed associate.

Though the number of the members of the association are respectable, we must still be desirous to extend its benefits, and invite the accession of members, who, by honoring themselves, will add honor to the institution. Application for admission can be made to any member of the government, whose names are annually published, who will attend to them with cheerfulness and impartiality.

Respectfully submitted. BENJAMIN RUSSELL.
*Chairman of the Committee.*

The officers elected for the succeeding year were: —

Benjamin Russell, *President.*
John Cotton, *Vice-President.*
Joseph Lovering, *Treasurer.*
David Francis, *Secretary.*

Elijah Mears,
Joseph Milner,
Edward Gray,
Joab Hunt,
Caleb Hartshorn,
Benjamin T. Wells,
Jonathan Hunewell,
John Andrews,
Benjamin Comey,
*Trustees.*

John Cotton,
Oliver Johonnot,
Benjamin Clark,
Job Drew,
Peter McIntosh,
Ephraim Thayer,
*Committee of Relief.*

Members admitted during the year: —

John Hatch, Spectacle-maker.
Samuel Hart, Ship-builder.
Simon Wilkinson, Ship-builder.

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# 1818.

The committee of the government, who had been instructed to consider the expediency of admitting honorary members, reported that it was expedient so to amend the constitution as to authorize the admission of such members, — "the number at no time to exceed one tenth part of the association; — that they must receive the approbation of the government, and be balloted for in the usual manner; — that they shall enjoy all the privileges of members, except those of paying assessments, belonging to the government, and having claims on the funeral fund; — and that a distinct plate be procured for diplomas to honorary members." This report was adopted by the association, at a quarterly meeting, and became a part of the constitution.

The funds having been consolidated, the practice of issuing certificates of subscription to the funeral fund was abolished.

At the quarterly meeting in June, William Jackson, agreeably to notice previously given, moved that "a portion of the funds should be withdrawn from the public stocks and loaned to members, in such sums as should be determined by the association." After some discussion the motion was referred to a committee of twelve, consisting of Gerry Fairbanks, Henry Purkitt, William Jackson, William Harris, Benjamin Bass, Jonathan Hunewell, Gedney King, David Francis, Joseph Lovering, Ephraim Thayer, Job Drew, and Richard Faxon. This committee was nominated by the president, who was added thereto by a vote of the members. At the next quarterly meeting the committee made a report in favor of the project, which, after two readings and considerable discussion, was rejected. The original mover, Mr. Jackson, then made a motion for reconsideration, which, after debate and explanation, was carried; and the report was recommitted to the same committee, with instructions to report at a meeting to be specially called for the purpose. In compliance with this vote, a meeting was held, November 5, when the committee presented an elaborate report, declaring it as their opinion that it was expedient to withdraw a part of the funds from the public stocks, for the purpose of making loans "to young members of the association," and prescribing the restrictions under which such loans might be made. It was voted to take up the report by paragraphs, so that the decission on the first paragraph might determine the whole matter. A long discussion ensued, until a motion was made and unanimously carried, "that the subject be postponed for the present." It does not appear that any attempt was made to revive it.

The president having received a note from the trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital, inviting the attendance of the association at the laying of the corner-stone of that edifice, — and the invitation having been accepted by the government, the members of the association assembled on the morning of the Fourth of July, in front of the West

Church, where a procession was formed of various societies that had been in like manner invited to participate in the ceremonies. The association, distinguished by their green badges, standard, and band of music, made a prominent figure in the procession. The *whole* procession was under the direction of the chief marshal of the association, Daniel Messinger, aided by nine assistant marshals, all members of the association. The standard was borne by Isaac Harris.*

At the conclusion of the ceremonies the government of the association proceeded to the common, to witness an *exhibition of casks.*† Ten casks were exhibited. The first premium of Twenty dollars was awarded to Robert Ripley of Boston; the second of Ten dollars, to George Fritz of Newburyport; the third, of Five dollars, to Sewall Smith of Cambridge. The three casks which gained the premiums were conveyed to the house of the president, and were presented by their respective owners, to the government, to be disposed of as might be expedient.

The other seven, by consent of the manufacturers, were sold at auction on the spot, and were purchased by Messrs. Hunewell and Purkitt.

A project for getting up a new bank, — to "be a real Mechanic's bank," — was discussed at several meetings of the government, and, at the special meeting of the association in November, was referred to a committee, "with full power to proceed in the business to the end, and to accomplish, if possible, the object of their appointment." The committee consisted of the vice-president, as chairman; the president, treasurer and secretary, Jonathan Hunewell, Gerry Fairbanks, William Jackson, Winslow Lewis, Isaac Harris, S. T. Armstrong, John Doggett, Thomas W. Sumner, Stephen Fairbanks, Daniel Messinger, and Charles C. Nichols.

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* The corner-stone "was laid in ample Masonic form by the Grand Lodge of the state, assisted by the governor of the state and the trustees of the Hospital."

† In the preceding month of June, the president had received a note, enclosing Thirty-five dollars, which the unknown donor requested might be disposed of in premiums to young coopers, under age, for the best made casks, to the number of three, that should be offered. The terms had been published in the newspapers, and the president, with the approbation of the government, had appointed, as judges, Henry Purkitt, James Barry, and Benjamin Clark.

Sixty-seven persons were admitted during the year: —

Samuel Perkins, Painter.
Christopher Gore, Painter.
John Clap, Roxbury, Cabinet-maker.
Thomas H. Blood, Sterling, Hatter.
Seth Thaxter, Carpenter.
Stephen Shelton, Pump and Block-maker.
Charles Mountfort, Sailmaker.
Zephaniah Sampson, Bricklayer.
Charles Wells, Bricklayer.
Loring Sargent, Mason and Paver.
Samuel Hart, Mason and Paver.
Nathaniel Howe, Cooper.
Charles Pook, Cooper.
Isaac Pierce, Cooper.
Stukely B. Fessenden, Cooper.
James Thompson, Cooper.
William Spear, Cooper.
Thomas Lewis, Cooper.
Edward Sargent, Cooper.
Henry Davis, Cooper.
Samuel Gooch, Cooper.
George Creighton, Cooper.
Benjamin Cushing, Cooper.
John F. Bannister, Cooper.
James Brown, Cooper.
John Wells, Cooper.
Joseph Bassett, Cooper.
James Wilson, Brush-maker.
James C. R. Bangs, Painter.
John R. Penniman, Artist.
Simon Gardner, Printer.
Jonathan Loring, jun. Sailmaker.
Peter Seaver, Painter.
Samuel Bassett, Sailmaker.
Joshua Oakes, Joiner.
Isaac Smith, Cooper.
John Wade, Boat-builder.
John Farrie, Cooper.
Francis Walker, Newton, Cooper.
James Davis, Coppersmith.
Joseph Mountfort, Cooper.
Samuel Hills, Blacksmith.
Stephen Thayer, Wheelwright.
William Baker, Painter.
Daniel Adams, Pump and Block-maker.
Ebenezer Oliver, Boat-builder.
John Rayner, Chaise-maker.
John Winship, Charlestown, Tallow-chandler.
Isaac Otis, Cabinet-maker.
Henry R. Hancock, Cabinet-maker.
Alexander Parris, Architect.
Samuel Doggett, jun. Gilder.
Cyrus Alger, Iron-founder.
Chester Guild, Roxbury, Currier.
Daniel Hastings, Glass-blower.
Deming Jarvis, Glass-blower.
Leavitt Nason, Tailor.
Enoch Kendall, Hairdresser.
Ebenezer Shute, Housewright.
John A. Shaw, Ropemaker.
Abraham W. Quincy, Baker.
Cushing Nichols, Bricklayer.
John Webber, Roxbury, Ropemaker.
John Lilly, Umbrella-manufacturer.
Martin Bates, Hatter.
Samuel Barry, Hatter.
Sewell Goodenow, Painter.
Seth Copeland, Housewright.

Three members withdrew; none were discharged; and four died, viz: — Oliver Wiswall,* James Cutler,† Edward

* Oliver Wiswall was one of the original members of the association, and was a housewright of respectable standing, but was never a very active member.

† James Cutler, printer, was of the firm of Russell & Cutler, publishers of the Boston Gazette. He was an active business man, and conducted the commercial department of the paper with zeal and accuracy. A generous, liberal-hearted brother of the craft, he died in the meridian of life, after a brief illness, on the eighteenth of April, truly lamented by his friends and acquaintance.

Tuckerman, and Paul Revere. The assessments of eight were remitted.

A new certificate of membership, designed by John R. Penniman, was contracted for, and engraved by Annin & Smith.

The report of the committee that audited the accounts of the secretary and treasurer, states the property of the association, on the 17th of December, (the day of the annual meeting,) to amount to *Seven thousand eight hundred and six dollars and thirty cents*, — exclusive of the reversionary right of *One thousand dollars* in the estate of the deceased William Breed.

All the officers except the senior trustees, whose term of service expired by constitutional limitation, were re-elected. William Jackson, David Baker, and Charles C. Nichols were chosen in place of the retiring trustees, Messrs. Mears, Milner and Gray.

The sum of Two hundred dollars was placed at the disposal of the committee of relief, — Messrs. Cotton, Johonnot, Messinger, B. Clark, and I. Harris.

The Fourth Triennial Festival was celebrated on the seventeenth of December. The committee of arrangements was composed of the members of the government, with Daniel Messinger, John Doggett, Winslow Lewis, Oliver Johonnot, Isaac Harris, Benjamin Clark, Henry Purkitt, Gedney King, James Barry and William Jackson. Winslow Lewis was the chief marshal on the occasion, and James Barry the standard-bearer. The guests invited were, — the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chief Justice Parker, Judges Story, Davis, Dawes, and Prescott, the president of Harvard College, the Rev. Dr. Gardner, Rev. Messrs. Parkman, Palfrey and Dean, Selectmen, Treasurer and Town Clerk, President of the Board of Health, Chairman of the Overseers of the Poor, President of the Fire-Wards, Messrs. James Lloyd, John Wells and William Parsons, as merchants, Presidents of the Salem and Newburyport Mechanic Associations, President of the Society of Art-

ists, Brigadier-General Sullivan and suite, Collector of the Port of Boston, Colonel John Trumbull, General Winslow, Commodores Bainbridge and Hull, Marshal of the District, Navy-Agent, William Ward, (the donor of the money for premiums to the young coopers,) John A. Bacon, (the auctioneer who sold the casks,) Charles Sprague, (the writer of the Triennial Ode,) Joseph Bailey, the chief chorister, and General Porter, of the United States Army. About half of this formidable list of guests attended the celebration. The procession was formed at Concert Hall, and moved through Tremont, School, Cornhill, State, Cornhill, Union, and Hanover streets, to the New North meeting-house. The customary religious services were performed by the Rev. John G. Palfrey, Mr. Parkman, the pastor of the church being absent on account of domestic calamity. An appropriate address was delivered by Joseph Jenkins; and an ode, written by Charles Sprague, was sung by Mr. Bailey, then a popular teacher of music.*

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* Mr. Jenkins's address was a sound and practical exposition of the privileges and duties of the mechanic; — well written, and enriched with appropriate illustrations. It placed before the audience "the design, the objects, and the consequences of the association." It was established (he said, and said very truly) at a time, when nothing but the invincible perseverance of its founders, could have succeeded in the undertaking. That was not, like the present, an age of societies. The plan was somewhat novel; and, though having for its aim, the exercise of the most benevolent and patriotic feelings, it was opposed by many, with a zeal, which would have done credit to a better cause. By men, too, in other respects, sound and philosophical; but in this, pusillanimous, superstitious, vindictive. But this opposition served only to develop the expediency of the design; as it necessarily called into use, those arguments and reasonings, in its favor, which would otherwise have remained unoccupied.

"In its infancy, as must have been expected, it had not the means to effect, in an extensive degree, the objects of its institution. Through the years of its minority, much exertion was requisite, even to preserve its existence: but it has surmounted every obstacle. It is now of age, and with respectable resources. . . . .

"Founded in the most liberal and benevolent feelings, it is raising a superstructure, broad in its dimensions, just in its proportions, and harmonious in all its parts. Let the everlasting decorations of its vestibule be the names of its venerable founders; and the emblem of truth entwine every pillar which supports it; — bearing the motto, 'BE JUST, AND FEAR NOT.' While, within its walls, the widow and the orphan shall find safe refuge from the 'pitiless pelting' storms of adversity, and unite their hearts to invoke blessings on the heads of their benefactors. There, too, presides the *Genius of the Arts*, bestowing health and competence on all her faithful votaries. At her command, disorder ceases; — *Science* appears! and in her train, *light*, *truth*, and *peace*, and *virtue*, attend to do her will. An enlightened and religious people will not pass

After these services, the procession was again formed and proceeded to Faneuil Hall, where a splendid dinner was provided. When the usual number of toasts had been drunk, His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Phillips withdrew from the hall, leaving on his plate the following sentiment: — "*Pay to the Treasurer of the Mechanic Association or bearer, One hun-*

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unnoticed this temple of science and of charity. They need only behold, to admire the structure.

"My respected brethren of the association! All this is well: but stop not here. You have just commenced, in 'successful experiment,' and let your success prompt you to new, and more extensive exertions, to carry, to the greatest perfection, the various objects in your original design. Let your usefulness continue, and 'grow with your growth.' Your means of success will be augmented, only by a faithful application of those already within your power.

"While you limit your exertions to nothing short of universal improvement, in the mental, as well as physical condition of man, open not a door for the introduction of projects, which are repugnant to the primary principles of your institution, and which, from their very nature, could not fail to loosen its cement, and disturb its harmony.

"Numerous, indeed, are the objects of utility, which the present prosperity, and real ability of your association invite you to embrace. You profess to be the improvers of the arts — the promoters of science. And it is your duty to adopt the best means to meet your profession. Take a stand, then, which your importance would warrant, and give direction to useful and scientific research.

"Those who reflect on your advantages, and contemplate your prospects, look forward with confidence, to the time, when your society shall become the repository of useful discoveries and inventions, in the arts you profess. When periodical publications shall issue from its archives, which shall not only promulgate your works, and make known your consequence to the world; but, like the *Mercuries* of ancient Egypt, shall encourage, and enlighten, and dignify the character of every mechanic, who shall find access to their ample contents."

At the close of the address, the following ode, written by Charles Sprague, Esq. was sung by Mr. Joseph Bailey: —

"When, from the mitred churchman's power
  Pilgrims sought a land of rest,
Here proudly rose, in blissful hour,
  Freedom's Empire in the West.
To HIM who saved, the GOD most high,
  Sweet Piety her altar raised;
Invention came, with eagle eye,
  And Science smiled where savage war-fires blazed.

Here, where the tawny Indian roved,
  Tenant of a flowerless waste,
A magic Power bright Genius proved,
  Forests bowed to Art and Taste.
Toil swung the sledge with sturdy hand,
  In chiseled grace fair domes arose;
Improvement moved upon the land,
  And Freedom's Press saved all from Freedom's foes.

*l dollars.* WILLIAM PHILLIPS. *To the Cashier of the Mas-usetts Bank.*"

olonel Trumbull's painting of the *Declaration of Inde-dence* had been exhibited in the Hall, for several days pre-s to the celebration, and was permitted to remain there ng the festival. At the close of the entertainment, a r, of which the following is a copy, enclosing One hun-l and two dollars and fifty cents, was handed to the presi-t: —

EAR SIR, — You will find enclosed the receipts of this morning's ex-ion, One hundred and two dollars and fifty cents. If it be agreeable e association, I could wish this trifle to be applied towards a fund, to istributed in premiums to those who shall produce the best specimens ork in the mechanical arts. Perhaps at the present moment, it may be thought improper to encourage further the perfecting of casks, h seems to be a branch essential to the interests of commerce. m, with sincere respect, and the best wishes for the prosperity of the iation, your most faithful servant, JOHN TRUMBULL.

NJAMIN RUSSELL, Esq. *President of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association.*

*ston, Dec.* 17, 1818.

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Mechanic Skill! the Tar, by thee,
  Stems the wave and mocks the gale;
By thee, the Yeoman, blithe and free,
  Plenty reaps from every vale.
Earth vainly hides her caverned ores,
  To thee the treasured hoard is given;
And Elements obey thy powers,
  And Science grasps the quivering flash of Heaven.

Nor yet alone in peaceful toil,
  Genius here shall be renowned;
Should bold Invasion tread the soil,
  Art's firm sons shall rally round.
Great Archimedes, on the foe
  Drew burning vengeance from the Sun;
And they, at Franklin's name who glow,
  Shall rouse at thine, immortal Washington!

O favored land! the exile's rest;
  Charity's long hallowed seat;
By Science, Worth, and Valor blest,
  All that 's good in thee shall meet.
'Be just, and fear not' earth combined,
  The scale and blade, the test and doom,
Thy sons shall bear to all mankind,
  And clustering glories round their names shall bloom."

A committee, of which the president was chairman, was instructed to wait on Colonel Trumbull, and express to him the thanks of the association for his generous contribution.

The customary votes of thanks were voted to the orator of the day, the chaplain, singers, &c. &c. Mr. Jenkins's address was ordered to be printed. The amount of the various bills presented to the committee of arrangements for payment was One thousand and seventy dollars and seventy-two cents.

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## 1819.

The committee of relief reported to the government, at its first monthly meeting, January 20, that, during the preceding year, they had distributed One hundred and forty-five dollars to twenty-one applicants. The chairman also stated that he had received a letter, signed "A Member," enclosing Twenty dollars, with a desire that it should be applied as the committee should think proper; in consequence of which the committee voted, "That, as the liberal donor had concealed his name, they cannot thank him personally, but will endeavor to meet his wishes by making the best application of it in their power."

A committee of five, — the three first officers, with Caleb Hartshorn and David Baker, — was appointed "to take into consideration the subject of granting premiums for the best specimens of manufacture on the approaching Fourth of July."

The sum of Twenty dollars was presented to Nathaniel Howe, who suffered loss in his workshop by fire.

The meeting of the association in March was rendered memorable by the exertions of two of the members to persuade the association to adopt measures for their mutual improvement in scientific knowledge. Gerry Fairbanks made some pertinent remarks in relation to the encouragement which ought to be given by the association to arts and manufacturers, and offered a resolution, that a committee be

chosen to take the subject into consideration, and report on the expediency of adopting a permanent system for the promotion of the mechanic and manufacturing arts. The resolution was adopted, and a committee appointed, consisting of seven members, viz. G. Fairbanks, W. Jackson, Thomas Wells, Joseph Lovering, Elijah Mears, Stephen Fairbanks, and D. Messinger. The committee made an able report in favor of the plan, which was approved, and referred to the government, to be by them published in the newspapers. A committee was chosen to petition the Legislature for aid in carrying into effect the object of the report. The committee attended to their duty, but the aid prayed for was not granted.

W. Jackson offered a resolution, "that a committee be chosen to inquire into the expediency of employing some person to deliver a course of lectures on chemistry, architecture, or mechanics, at some future period. This was also adopted, and Messrs. Jackson, S. Fairbanks, Cotton, Parris, and Jenkins appointed on the committee.

The project of a new bank was again debated and postponed to a special meeting, to be held on the fifth of May. It was again, after long discussion, postponed to the next annual meeting.

Suitable arrangements having been made for the exhibition of articles made by apprentices, on the fifth of July (the fourth falling on the Sabbath) the association assembled at the "Washington Gardens," and moved in procession to the front of the State-house, where the articles intended for premiums were exhibited. There were fourteen casks, made by as many apprentices, all nearly of one size, and every one a beautiful specimen of workmanship. The highest premium, Twenty dollars, was awarded to Simon Preston; the second, Ten dollars, to William Wildes, jun. and the third, Five dollars, to Nathaniel Reed, jun. A number of plated and beaver hats were also exhibited. The competition was not confined to apprentices. The first premium, Twenty dollars, and the second, Ten dollars, for the first and second best beaver hats, were both awarded to Christopher Porter. The highest pre-

mium, Ten dollars, and the second, Five dollars, for the first and second best plated hats, were awarded to H. D. Tregear. Some other articles were sent for exhibition only. At the close of the exhibition, the articles were sold at auction, and commanded high prices.

William Wood, who furnished from his private purse the money to pay the premiums, requested that the casks which obtained the premiums might be sent to New-York for exhibition. His request was granted, and the casks were sold in that city.

The only business done at the quarterly meeting in September and at the two government meetings succeeding, was the reception of reports of committees, which reported progress, and had leave to finish the business of their appointment at future times.

At the government meeting, November 10, the committee on Chemical Lectures, &c. by their chairman, William Jackson, made the following report: —

The committee who were directed to inquire into the expediency of employing some person to deliver a course of Lectures before the Members of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, have taken that subject into consideration, and beg leave to submit the following report: —

When it is considered that almost every kind of manufacture depends on the combination of different simple substances; "that the action of air, water, heat, light, &c. operates according to certain laws, in the hands of every class of artists;" the importance of a thorough knowledge of their respective properties, their mutual affinities, and laws of action, "by giving to the artist a competent idea of the principle and object of his operation;" must, we think, on the slightest examination, appear obvious to all.

Whoever is conversant, in any considerable degree, with the progress and improvement of the manufacturing and mechanic arts in Europe, especially in England and France, must be aware that their advancement has been materially promoted by the astonishing developments of chemistry. This science, by reducing the numerous manufacturing operations to general principles, has withdrawn that impenetrable veil of secrecy and mystery from those arts which were too long considered as individual or national property; and secrets, once transmitted as an inheritance, have now become the property of the persevering and intelligent of all nations.

Not only have the arts, within the last twenty years, been indebted to chemistry for many of their most valuable improvements, but it is an-

nually giving to the world new arts, and new resources to the industrious and enterprizing.

But while it is admitted that this science has rendered the most important services to the manufacturer, the reaction must also be admitted; the scientific world must acknowledge that many of the most important discoveries in chemistry have been made by practical men; and it is, certainly, to the combination of science and practice, that the manufactured fabrics of Europe have approached so much nearer to perfection than our own; not that there is a comparative deficiency of science in the United States — on the contrary, your committee believe that the history of the world affords no parallel to the rapid advance, which has here been made in all its branches, although this study has been, and still is too much confined to a class of persons, who seek it rather as an embellishment or amusement; and with whom its acquirement is comparatively of little intrinsic value.

The mere man of science, it is true, may astonish some by his brilliant discoveries, and perplex the world with plausible and useless hypotheses; but the man of practice and analysis sits in judgement on such conclusions, and adopts or condemns as experience may dictate. Justice requires of the manufacturer an acknowledgement of many valuable gifts presented to the arts by the speculations and improvements of enlightened philosophy; but the equally valuable improvements and more valuable applications of such men as Franklin, Rumford, Wedgwood, Chaptal, &c. &c. have caused, and will ever cause, them to be considered among the most distinguished benefactors of mankind.

If the mere practical man, instead of being aided in his operations by the speculations of the theorist, is too often led into uncertainty, and after a repetition of ruinous experiments, is glad to return to the sober path which reason approves, and experience sanctions; that man is to be condemned, and equally will he suffer, whose jealous eye looks upon every improvement only as an innovation; whose mind is inaccessible to new ideas, and who obstinately rejects without examination, every improvement proposed to him, and however sanguinely such a man may approve of his own productions, he will soon find them disliked and rejected, or that he cannot afford them at so low a price as the more candid and enterprizing workman.

If then we would preserve ourselves from the two extremes of blind credulity on the one side, and blinder obstinacy on the other, let us study those laws and principles, the knowledge of which will enable us, while we reject what is spurious, to adopt what is valuable; and thus when we, as associated mechanics and manufacturers, hold forth with one hand a premium for perfection, point with the other to those attainments, and to the knowledge of those principles, which alone can make us successful competitors for the prize.

All at this moment feel, and readily allow, that the manufactures of our own country are yet in their infancy. The science of mechanics, by sav-

ing labor, and the science of chemistry, by teaching its most economical and wise application, will, under the blessing of heaven, most assuredly advance them to an early and vigorous manhood.

Let us then, as mechanics and manufacturers, seek this as the one thing needful, and consider it as an infinitely better, more certain, and more honorable dependence, than can be realized from the present fashionable and visionary mode of exorbitant and prohibitory duties. To speak mechanically, it may be denominated the fulcrum, placed on which, the lever of New-England genius and industry may overturn every obstacle to perfection, and make our artists successful competitors with those of any nation on earth.

Your committee are aware, that some members of the association cannot reasonably expect to derive much benefit in their profession from the adoption of the proposed measure; but the works of nature which it is calculated to lay open and explain, will always be found a useful study: — it will excite inquiry, enlarge the mind, and aid in the cultivation of those powers and faculties, which stamp God's own image upon his creature; while at the same time it qualifies them for rational and intellectual enjoyment here, and points their hopes to higher and more exalted happiness in a better world hereafter.

Independent, however, of intellectual improvement and the advantage that may be reasonably anticipated, the gratification arising from the investigation of so interesting a subject, would unquestionably be a source of more real pleasure, than could be purchased at the same expense of time and money in any other way. A want of rational amusement is often a subject of complaint; and therefore that which in no wise tends to mental improvement is often adopted; much time is squandered away, and the mind rather debased than elevated. Let science then be a source of amusement, and it will soon become a source of improvement. Let the busy and hard-working mechanic retire from the important labors of the day to the lecture-room in the evening, and he will acquire a taste for those exercises, to which every nation, that has hitherto risen to importance, is more or less indebted.

Under these impressions, your committee recommend, that a professor of chemistry should be employed by the association, to deliver a course of lectures on chemistry as applied to the arts, to commence early in January next. And farther recommend the following as in their opinion the most eligible mode for carrying this undertaking into effect: —

That a special meeting of the association be called, and the foregoing report be submitted to them; and if approved, a subscription be opened. That the approving members be invited to subscribe for one or more tickets, at Five dollars each. That a committee be chosen by nomination of the president, consisting of one member from each ward in Boston, one from Roxbury, and one from Charlestown, with instructions to apply to members not at the meeting. If in this manner there are not

tickets enough subscribed for, to cover the expense, to offer the remainder to persons out of the association.

All which is respectfully submitted. W. JACKSON, per order.

The report was twice read, discussed, and unanimously accepted, and referred to the association at a special meeting, to be called for the purpose, on the 25th of November. At that meeting, the report was read and produced a warm and animated debate. "It was objected to on the ground that it was a subject entirely disconnected with the proper objects of the association; — that they ought never to sanction with their countenance or support any thing so extraordinary; and that, if there was any surplus money in the treasury, it had better be devoted to charity, and to specific purposes within the provisions of the constitution. The friends of the report, on the other hand, contended that it would be honorable to the association to countenance the measure; — that no money was to be drawn from the funds, it being founded upon a voluntary subscription; — that it would lead to a love of science, and enhance the respectability of the mechanics; — that books on the subject of chemistry were high, and useless to those who did not first become possessed of its principles by experimental lectures; — that, instead of being detrimental, and converting the current of our means into other channels than those first intended by the founders of our association, it would enhance our glory, bring the members to a better acquaintance with the materials of their work and with one another; — and, finally, perhaps, elicit from some one of our minds, new arts and trades, whereby more poor persons could be employed, and, of course, a larger sum of good be done in charity by employment than by pecuniary grants."

The report was again objected to in some of its details, and, as a previous question, a vote was taken, "*Whether it was expedient to have the lectures?*" and this was carried in the affirmative. The vote was reconsidered, in order to have it open for further discussion, and the consideration of it postponed to the annual meeting. At that meeting a long and able discussion took place, when, by a decisive vote, the whole subject was indefinitely postponed.

The prominent business at the annual meeting (agreeably to precedent) was the reception of the report of the auditing committee and the election of officers. According to the report of the committee, the entire property of the association, — consisting of stocks, notes of individuals, arrearages due from members, cash in the hands of the treasurer and committee of relief, — amounted to *Eight thousand one hundred and ninety-eight dollars and fourteen cents.*

The report of the committee states that twenty-six members were admitted during the year. The record exhibits the names of only eight, viz: —

John P. Thorndike, Bricklayer.
Addison Bacon, Wheelwright.
Adna Bates, Housewright.
Samuel Stebbins, Pump and Block-maker.
Nathaniel Scott, Tallow-chandler.
Warren Marsh, Bricklayer.
George W. Otis, Housewright.
Christopher Porter, Hatter.

The same report states, also, that *five* members deceased during the year; but this does not agree with the treasurer's report, which states that the funeral donation was made to the families of *four* who had died, viz: — Joseph Milner,* John Eliot,† Isaiah Atkins, and Benjamin Bass.

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* Joseph Milner was an Englishman, born in London, and as clever a man (both in the English and Yankee signification of the phrase) as ever crossed the Atlantic. He served an apprenticeship with a baker in London, and was a member of one of the *Guilds*. Soon after the commencement of the present century he came to Boston, and established himself as a baker in Washington-street, near the end of Hollis-street. His bakery was celebrated for its issue of "rusk," "sweet crackers," and "president biscuit," in addition to the ordinary kinds of bread for family use. He served the constitutional term as a trustee of the association. The writer lived nearly opposite to this gentleman, for two or three years, and never had, nor desires to have, better neighbors than Joseph Milner and his wife. They were not passively benevolent, but active and persevering in all offices of kindness and charity where kindness and charity were needed. Mrs. Milner carried on the business some years after the decease of her husband.

† John Eliot was the second son of the Rev. John Eliot of Boston, born March 9, 1788. At the proper age he was apprenticed to Ensign Lincoln, to learn the trade of a printer, and served his time to the perfect satisfaction of his employer. He then opened a printing-office in Court-street, and executed a goodly share of the *job* work of the town, — pamphlets, bills, notifications, &c. He also published some of the Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society. He was a pattern of sobriety and industry, and to those virtues united those of generosity and unblemished integrity. The destroyer of man assailed him through the agency of consumption. In 1818 he went to New Orleans, hoping to receive benefit from the climate, and died in that city February 9, 1819.

Five members withdrew from the association; the arrearages of several were remitted; and the names of three were erased by order of the government.

The following letter, inclosing Two dollars, was read from the chair, and ordered to be placed on record: —

SIR, — I was much gratified with the exhibition of casks on the Fourth of July last, and, shortly after, purchased one of them. The necessity and utility of offering premiums annually for specimens of the mechanic arts presented itself strongly to my mind at the time, and I am happy to notice, by the Centinel of to-day, that such arrangements have been made by your respectable association, as will, I trust, obtain and secure a permanent premium fund. It is my wish to become an annual subscriber, and now inclose the amount of one year's subscription.

With respect, your humble servant, HENRY J. OLIVER.

*North-street, May* 22.

Mr. JOHN WELLS, one of the committee of arrangements.

The following report was presented, accepted, and ordered to be placed on record: —

The committee to whom was referred a motion in favor of certain members, who were sufferers by the late fire in Pleasant-street, have made the necessary inquiries, and find that four of our most esteemed and highly valued members have sustained heavy losses by this calamity. There can be no doubt but the spontaneous wishes and best feelings of the association would prompt to the extension of pecuniary aid in every case of such loss by its members; but with regard to two of these gentlemen cordial sympathy is all that the present limited state of our funds will permit us to offer; and, under existing circumstances, it is presumed all that will be expected by them.

In regard to Messrs. Shaw and Adams, their loss, though not so large in amount as that of the gentlemen above alluded to, has, in proportion to their remaining resources, been severe, — particularly that of Mr. Shaw, who, by this event, has suffered nearly or quite a total loss of the fruits of many years of honest industry.

Instances of this kind among associates, though productive of many painful sensations, are, nevertheless, calculated to bring into exercise some of the best feelings of the human heart, while, at the same time, they teach us to set a just value upon the provident care and generous efforts of those, under whose management our funds have reached to that amount which enables us, even in a limited degree, to give scope to, and obey the dictates of, such feelings.

Thus impressed, your committee unanimously recommend that the treasurer be directed to present to Mr. John A. Shaw the sum of One hundred dollars, and to Mr. Edward Adams the sum of Fifty dollars, together

with the affectionate sympathy, and the best wishes of the association, for the future prosperity and happiness of themselves and their families.

By direction of the committee, WILLIAM JACKSON, *Chairman.*

The committee of relief distributed One hundred and fifteen dollars to twenty applicants.

The officers of this year were all re-elected, except Messrs. Hunt, Hartshorn, and Wells, the senior trustees, whose place was supplied by Thomas Hughes, Stephen Fairbanks, and Benjamin Darling. The committee of relief was also re-appointed, and Jonathan Harrington was added to the number. The sum of *Two hundred dollars* was placed at the disposal of the committee.

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# 1820.

At the first government meeting, the president, vice-president, and J. Hunewell "were appointed a committee to consider what kind of manufactures shall be exhibited for premiums on the Fourth of July." At the next meeting it was voted, "That the above committee on premiums for the best manufactures, be also a committee of ways and means to carry the intention of the vote into effect, and to attend generally to all the concerns thereof, and to report as speedily as possible." S. Fairbanks and W. Jackson were added to the committee.

In the latter part of the year 1819, William Wood, a retired merchant of Boston, obtained from the libraries of various individuals, about five hundred volumes of miscellaneous books, for the purpose of instituting a library for the apprentices of mechanics. The books were placed in a small room in the Old State-house. Mr. Wood requested the government of the association to take charge of them, and attend to the delivery of them to the apprentices. The government complied with his request; but no notice of their connection with the library is found on the record till February 9, 1820, as follows:—"The subject of the *Library for Apprentices*

was brought before the government by the president, who stated its origin, and the progress already made; that there were nearly five hundred volumes now in the room appropriated to receive the donations, which volumes were presented by various persons; and that he wished the government would adopt some resolution respecting it, in order to further the benevolent designs of the founder." "Voted, That the government accept the superintendence of the Apprentices' Library." "Voted, That the president, vice-president, treasurer, and Mr. Hunewell be a committee to report rules and regulations for the government and extension of said library."

In compliance with these votes a set of rules and regulations were reported, adopted, and placed on record. Following these on the record is the annexed copy of a letter, which was read and ordered to be recorded: —

*Boston, Feb.* 22, 1820.

GENTLEMEN, — I have the pleasure to present the keys of the Apprentices' Library, containing *Fourteen hundred and eighty* volumes, beside numerous pamphlets, received from various donors. In collecting these books, a promise has been given to most of the donors that they should forever be opened for the use of the mechanic, and all needy apprentices, *gratis*: — That a room [*shall be provided*] containing the *Cyclopedia*, and where all large works shall be placed, which room shall be opened twice in the week for the information and use of all apprentices who are mechanics, of twenty years of age, and if convenient to those of nineteen years of age; which promises I request you to confirm. Wishing this institution "may be the *acorn* from which many spreading oaks will spring," and my humble good wishes for the prosperity of every individual of *that* association which has been the object of the best services of, gentlemen, your obedient servant, WILLIAM WOOD.

To BENJAMIN RUSSELL, Esq. and the several members of the government of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association.

The secretary was directed to engross the following answer to Mr. Wood's letter; to obtain the signatures of all the members of the government, and forward it to him, with a copy of the rules and regulations: —

*Boston, March* 1, 1820.

WILLIAM WOOD, Esq.

SIR, — The government of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association avail themselves of the first moment of their first meeting, to acknowledge with pleasure and gratitude the receipt of your note of the

22d ult. addressed to them, and, in behalf of themselves and their associates, to present to you their thanks for the deep interest and benevolent and successful exertions made by you in the institution and formation of a library for the use of mechanic and other apprentices. They cordially accept the keys of the institution from your hands, and readily assume the superintendence of it; and assure you and the donors of the books, that their best exertions shall be used to carry into full effect their benevolent wishes and expectations: — That, to this end, they have organized themselves into committees of the week; — have appointed a librarian; and have decreed it to be a fundamental regulation of the institution that the books shall be loaned gratuitously to all apprentices designated, at such time or times in each week as shall be best calculated to diffuse its benefits; and, as far as is practicable, to allow accommodations to apprentices above twenty years of age to use the larger volumes of the library, under the direction of the committee of the week.

A copy of the rules and regulations of the library accompany this letter.

We are respectfully your obedient servants.

(Signed by all the members of the government.)

The arrangements for conducting the affairs of the library were frequently changed, as circumstances and experience proved to be necessary and convenient. Application was made for the use of the Old Quaker meeting-house in Congress-street, but was unsuccessful. The chambers in the upper story of a store at the corner of Market-street (now Cornhill) and Franklin-avenue were obtained, to which the library was removed, and where, for some time, the association held its quarterly meetings. Numerous committees were appointed to superintend the delivery of books, and to perform various duties connected with the institution; — among the rest, were *thirteen* committees of three members each, — one from the government, who was to be the organ of communication with that body, and two from the association at large, whose duty was to attend successively every Monday, when the library was open for the delivery of books. The committee of ways and means made the following report to the government, May 24: —

The committee to whom was referred the subject of obtaining funds (independent of those of the association) to defray the expenses incident to the proposed distribution of medals and premiums for the encouragement of mechanic ingenuity and good workmanship, and also to meet ex-

penses necessarily growing out of the establishment of the Apprentices' Library, report: — That in the execution of their duty, they addressed the following circular to those gentlemen whose names are annexed, and are happy to add, that they found, in the promptitude with which these gentlemen attended to the solicitations, and in the friendly manner in which their subscriptions were made, renewed evidence of the substantial friendship and continued patronage for our association, by those orders of society who can have no other interest in our increase and prosperity than what arises from a sincere love of the mechanic arts, and an ardent desire to promote the cause of benevolence and improvement.

*Boston, April* 18, 1820.

To ———

Sir, — You may have seen by the public papers, that two institutions have recently been established in this town, under the care of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association: — one, a library, for the sole use of apprentices; — the other, the annual presentation of valuable premiums, or medals of gold or silver, for excellence in workmanship by apprentices, journeymen, and others, connected with the handicrafts of the town and country.

These institutions have already been productive of very beneficial effects on the manufactures and products of the town and state; and have had peculiar efficacy in exciting emulation to good workmanship, and in the amendment of the morals and habits of the rising generation of mechanics. It is the earnest wish of the association to extend and perpetuate these successful experiments: — But their act of incorporation imperiously *restricts the appropriation of their funds to charitable objects:* — They are, therefore, under the necessity of relinquishing their superintendence of the institution, or to resort to that public munificence which has ever been so cheerfully and bountifully afforded to objects of this nature, to obtain the funds necessary to defray the incidental expenses of the library; and to render the medals to be awarded to excellence, worthy of the town, the nation, and the age we live in.

The association have designated the undersigned as a committee to perform the pleasing duty of making the solicitation of this bounty; and have (in addition to the members of the association) directed them to make the solicitation, in the first instance, to the gentlemen whose names are annexed to this circular: — And as they know the friends of the institution are numerous, they have added, that it is not requested that any individual subscription should exceed Ten dollars.

As the principal preparatory expenses of the institutions must be defrayed before the beginning of July, the committee most respectfully intimate, that one of their number, or a suitable person authorized by them, will have the honor to call upon you on Wednesday, the 26th instant, to ascertain the result of this application. Any information respecting the

amount and nature of the expenses of the institutions, will be cheerfully furnished by the committee.

With great respect, and in behalf of the association, we are, Sir, your obedient servants,

BENJAMIN RUSSELL,
JOHN COTTON,
JOSEPH LOVERING,
JONATHAN HUNEWELL,
CHARLES C. NICHOLS,
STEPHEN FAIRBANKS,
WILLIAM JACKSON,
*Committee.*

*List of the persons to be solicited, alphabetically arranged.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ebenezer T. Andrews, Esq. | $10 00 | Hon. Harrison G. Otis, | $10 00 |
| Samuel Appleton, Esq. | 10 00 | Hon. Thomas H. Perkins, | 10 00 |
| John Bellows, Esq. | 50 00 | John Parker, Esq. | 10 00 |
| Amos Binney, Esq. | 10 00 | Daniel P. Parker, Esq. | 10 00 |
| Josiah Bradlee, Esq. | 10 00 | William Pratt, Esq. | 10 00 |
| Hon. Peter C. Brooks, | 10 00 | His Honor William Phillips, | 50 00 |
| Samuel Brown, Esq. | 10 00 | Hon. John Phillips, | 10 00 |
| Benjamin Bussey, Esq. | | James Prince, Esq. | 5 00 |
| Joseph Coolidge, Esq. | 10 00 | Samuel Parkman, Esq. | 10 00 |
| Joshua Davis, Esq. | 5 00 | Hon. William Prescott, | 10 00 |
| Hon. Henry Dearborn, | 10 00 | William Parsons, Esq. | |
| Henry A. S. Dearborn, Esq. | 5 00 | Hon. Josiah Quincy, | 10 00 |
| Edmund Dwight, Esq. | 10 00 | David Sears, Esq. | 25 00 |
| John French, Esq. | 5 00 | Barney Smith, Esq. | 10 00 |
| Nathaniel Goddard, Esq. | | Edward Tuckerman, Esq. | 5 00 |
| Hon. William Gray, | 10 00 | Phineas Upham, Esq. | 5 00 |
| Gardner Greene, Esq. | 10 00 | Arnold Welles, Esq. | 10 00 |
| Hon. John C. Jones, | 5 00 | Hon. John Welles, | 10 00 |
| Theodore Lyman, Esq. | 10 00 | Benjamin Wiggin, Esq. | |
| Hon. Jonathan Mason, | 10 00 | Francis Welch, Esq. | 5 00 |
| Israel Munson, Esq. | 10 00 | James Perkins, Esq. | 50 00 |
| Perrin May, Esq. | 5 00 | | |
| | *Four hundred and eighty dollars.* | | $480 00 |

That agreeably to the intimation in the circular, Mr. Kuhn was employed to present the book of subscription to the above gentlemen, and he reported, that he had received from them the sum annexed to their respective names: all which, (after deducting the necessary expenses,) have been received by the treasurer of the association, and placed by him in a separate and distinct fund, on interest.

All which is submitted by

BENJAMIN RUSSELL, per order.

A vote of thanks to these gentlemen was passed, and the secretary directed to send to each of them a copy.*

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* A detail of all the proceedings in relation to the apprentices' library would be, now, of but little interest. For several years, hardly a meeting of the government or of the association passed off without some attempt to add to its value, and some new evidence of the desire of the government to fulfill the expectations of its founder, and render it pleasant, useful, and profitable to those for whose improvement it was designed. The principal occurrences concerning it will be noticed in subsequent pages, but minor and unimportant details will be omitted. It may be proper to introduce here, as a portion of its history, a few paragraphs from an address delivered before the associated apprentices, on the twenty-second of February, 1844, by Frederic W. Lincoln, jun.—a gentleman who had been a zealous and efficient member, and was then an honorary member of the "Mechanic Apprentices' Library Association":—

"The Mechanic Apprentices' Library of this city, has the proud preëminence of being the first of the kind in the world. Lord Brougham remarks, that, 'although the remote origin of these institutions may be traced to Franklin, Mr. Wood has the merit of establishing them on their present plan, and adapting them peculiarly to the instruction of mechanics and apprentices. He founded the first in Boston in 1820.'

"The early efforts of the gentleman who started this enterprize were crowned with complete success. The call for books met with a hearty response, worthy of the cause; Governor Gore, Governor Phillips, Chief Justice Parker, and a large number of other distinguished citizens, exerted themselves warmly in its favor, and about fifteen hundred volumes were collected. On the twenty-second of February, 1820, a day sacred to the memory of Washington, in the Old State-house, then regarded with more interest than at present for its revolutionary associations, with prayer to Almighty God for his blessing, in the presence of the highest officers of the Commonwealth, an address was delivered by the Hon. Theodore Lyman, jun. and the keys of the library were presented in due form to the Hon. Benjamin Russell, the veteran patriot printer, then president of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association.

"As an illustration of the interest felt in the establishment of the institution, permit me to read a letter from President John Adams, which was received at that time by Mr. Wood, and which he has recently presented to its government. You should place it in your cabinet and keep it as a sacred relic.

'*Montezillo, Feb.* 8, 1820.

'SIR,—As I have all my life professed to be a very sincere friend to the promotion of knowledge, and a free circulation of it, through every vein, and artery, through the body politic, in opposition to all the well born, well bred, and well dressed few, in every age and country, who have taught an opposite doctrine; I cannot but applaud the design of the good people of Boston for raising a library for the use of mechanics, and their apprentices; and I thank the selectmen for the facilities they have granted to the institution. I will endeavor to look up a volume; at least I hope to send you a Lexicon Technicum, not as a work of great value of the present age, but as the acorn from which so many spreading oaks have sprung. The English pretend, and for what I know truly, that this was the first essay of the kind in Europe, afterwards enlarged and made much more useful by Chambers' Dictionary, then emulated by the literati of France, in their Encyclopedia, since greatly improved br Dr. Rees's, and since somewhat enlarged by one or two editions in America, and now scattered all over the world.

'By W. W. I am requested to address this letter to your office, and am, Sir, with due respect, your most obedient humble servant, JOHN ADAMS.

WILLIAM WOOD, Esq. Secretary to the Committee of the Apprentices' Library.'

On the Fourth of July the members of the government, judges of premiums, and marshals, breakfasted with the president, and proceeded from thence, with a band of music and

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"The library was a gift from the public to the apprentices of Boston. It probably never entered the mind of any of its founders, at so early a day, that the apprentices themselves could conduct its affairs. It was necessary, however, that a society should be formed, or some organization already existing, should take charge of it. The Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, a society of long standing, and known character and reputation, agreed to accept the trust, and act as its guardian. They say, in a resolution passed at the time, that 'they are willing to take upon themselves the management of the institution, the benefit of which is to be felt in every part of society; but that society, independent of this association, ought to be willing to furnish the means for its incidental expenses.'

"The library was accordingly opened, and the apprentices gratuitously supplied with its books. Its expenses were paid, for a number of years, by subscriptions from the public, under the direction of the Mechanic Association. Finally, however, these subscriptions ceased, casting the whole burden of its maintenance upon the association. This being contrary to the understanding when they took the library into their hands, they deemed it expedient to close its doors. They remained shut, however, but a short time; for the apprentices, feeling keenly this deprivation, held a meeting at the Exchange Coffee-house, and agreed to take upon themselves all its cares and responsibilities, if the association would appropriate a small amount to aid them in the undertaking.

"This request met with a cheerful answer. The apprentices formed themselves into an association by the adoption of a constitution and the choice of a board of officers, and the library was given up conditionally to them.

"As this library was the first established for the use of apprentices, so I believe this was the first association organized by apprentices, and probably is the only one now existing in the world composed exclusively of this class. It was formed on the nineteenth of June, 1828, a day, the anniversary of which, is annually observed, with appropriate exercises, by a society composed of its past members.

"All other libraries, as far as my knowledge extends, are conducted by older individuals, the apprentices themselves only enjoying the privilege of taking out books. The affairs of this institution, on the contrary, are managed exclusively by minors.

"The relative position of the Mechanic Association, in regard to it, resembles very much, that of residuary legatees. The library, as has been before stated, belongs to the apprentices of Boston. If the apprentices' association, who have it now in charge, should be dissolved, or if they should abandon it, or should grossly abuse its privileges, by allowing others than those, for whom it was originally designed, to enjoy it, or by any infringement of certain provisos disqualifying themselves for this important trust, then the parent association has a right to resume the management, with all its additions and improvements.

"Upon the formation of this society of apprentices, a new era commenced in the history of the institution.

"A reading department was established, which has been furnished, through the liberality of editors and publishers, with most of the leading newspapers and magazines. A course of exercises, consisting of lectures and debates, was introduced, which has been continued, in each successive winter since. Classes for the study of elocution, and kindred subjects, were formed; a cabinet of minerals and curiosities commenced; and all those means for intellectual and moral advancement, which distinguish the age in which we live, were put in force, and with great success.

the standard, to the Washington Gardens, to examine the articles presented for exhibition, and the following awards were declared: —

A silver medal of Twelve dollars to William Emerson, for the best specimen of *entire* chaise harness; and the second premium of Six dollars in money to the same individual.

A silver medal of the value of Twelve dollars, to Thomas Rundle, for the best made six-paneled door; and the premium of Six dollars in money to Henry Chubbuck, for the second best.

A silver medal of Ten dollars, to Addison Bacon, for the best made pair of chaise wheels; and the second premium of Five dollars, to Oliver Ames of Norton, for the second best.

A silver medal of Eight dollars, to William Jordan, an apprentice, for the best ship blocks; and the second of Two dollars, to John B. Ingalls, for the next best.

A silver medal of Six dollars, to Peter Athern, an apprentice, for the best made pair of half boots; and the second, Three dollars in cash, for the second best pair, to Samuel B. Pope.

John I. Bickner, an apprentice in the town of Attleboro', presented a barrel, for which no premiums were offered, and the government, in consequence of the expense he had incurred by mistake, directed the treasurer to present to him Five dollars as a premium, and Three dollars as the price of the cask.

After the award of the premiums, the company returned to the house of the president and partook of a collation. The government then proceeded to join the civic procession,

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"In 1831, its anniversary was observed, for the first time, by an address from a member. This custom has been followed in each successive year until the present, members of the association acting as the orators and poets of the occasion.

"There are some present who will probably recollect this first address. It was rare at that time for any but a professional man to appear before a public audience. The system of popular lectures and societies upon the lyceum plan, had just been introduced, and had not become common in this community. An address from a mechanic, or a mechanic's apprentice, was indeed a novelty. Mr. William F. Bryant, a gentleman now resident in Mobile, was the person selected to make the attempt, and succeeded to the entire satisfaction of his associates, and a large number of the friends of the institution who were present."

ordered by the Governor of the commonwealth, in honor of the day.

A new plate for certificates of membership was completed this year, at an expense of Two hundred and twenty dollars, and each of the members was permitted to take a new certificate in place of his old one.

A letter from Samuel Gilbert, a former secretary, recommended Benjamin True, printer, "an aged and worthy member, who had recently suffered severe loss by fire, as a suitable object for the exercise of the charitable feeling of the association; and the treasurer was directed to present to Mr. True the sum of Seventy-five dollars. To John Loring, baker, who had also suffered some loss by fire, the treasurer was directed to present "Four barrels of flour, — nineteen dollars and fifty cents."

Eleven candidates were admitted as members at the several quarterly meetings, namely: —

John Leman, Blacksmith.
Oliver Fernald, Brass-founder.
Nathaniel K. Lombard, Sailmaker.
Simon Blanchard, Cabinet-maker.
Heman Lincoln, Housewright.
John Drayton, Housewright.
Thomas Eaton, Saddler.
Moses Andem, Ropemaker.
Thomas Gaffield, Cordwainer.
Charles A. Wells, Bookbinder.
John Vannevar, Bricklayer.

The government having recommended the following gentlemen as candidates for honorary membership, they were unanimously elected, viz: —

Hon. John Adams, of Quincy;
His Excellency John Brooks, of Bedford;
Hon. Christopher Gore, of Waltham;
His Honor William Phillips, of Boston;
Hon. William Gray, of Boston;

And a committee of five members was appointed to present to each of the gentlemen the certificate of the association.

Eight members, namely, Benjamin Cushing, Jesse Churchill, Joseph Allen, Thomas Redman, Jesse Mayo, John David, Samuel Curtis, and William McKean, died during the year. The families of the seven, first named, received the customary donation of Forty dollars. Mr. McKean left directions in his

will, that the Forty dollars, due to his family at his death, should be returned and placed in the fund.*

Two members withdrew from the association. The whole number of members at the annual meeting in December was Two hundred and fifty-two.

The property of the association, composed of the usual miscellaneous items, was stated by the auditing committee to be Eight thousand six hundred and sixteen dollars and thirty-four cents.

The four first officers of the government and six trustees were re-elected. Ephraim Marsh, George Darracott, and Nathaniel Faxon, were chosen to fill the places of the retiring trustees, Messrs. Hunewell, Andrews, and Comey. No change was made in the committee of relief.

It was voted, at this meeting, that the entrance fee of membership should hereafter be Ten dollars, — the members being entitled to a certificate and a copy of the constitution.

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* William McKean was born in Scotland, — probably in Glasgow, — and bred to the trade of a tobacconist. He emigrated to America when quite young; resided a while at Halifax; afterward in Virginia; and took up a permanent residence in Massachusetts, during or soon after the war of the revolution. He first set up his business in Charlestown, where he married; but not long after removed to Boston, to a place that he purchased, in Ship-street, and where he lived, manufacturing tobacco and snuff, till his death, in 1820. His shop, known by the sign of an Indian and his pipe, was a sort of land-mark, to guide the passenger to various streets and lanes at the "North End." Mr. McKean was four times married, but had no children except by his second wife. The number of his children was four — two daughters and two sons. One of the daughters, a single woman, is still living, residing in Cambridge, with Mrs. Austin, — a niece of Mr. McKean, who was brought up as an adopted daughter. Of the sons, the first, William, died in infancy; — the other, Joseph, was graduated at Harvard College in 1796, — ordained over the congregational society in Milton in 1798, — and succeeded Mr. John Quincy Adams, as Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres in Harvard College, in 1809, — which office he held till his death in 1818. Mr. McKean (senior) was remarkably punctual in his attendance on all the meetings of the association, and in the payment of all assessments; and punctuality, promptness, exactness, — the natural elements of mercantile and moral integrity, — were prominent, and indeed, proverbial traits in his character. He was often requested to serve the association as a trustee, but as often resolutely refused to be a candidate.

# 1821.

At the first government meeting, Stephen Fairbanks called attention to the affairs of the apprentices' library, — stating "that nearly all the money which had been so liberally bestowed for the support of it was expended, and that further means were necessary, — as the association had taken the library under its protection, and must now provide funds to insure its stability." With this view, he moved, "That the members of the government omit, for one year, the usual entertainment provided at their monthly meetings, and each subscribe Twenty-five dollars towards a Library and Premium Fund." The motion produced some discussion, and was referred to a committee, composed of Stephen Fairbanks, John Cotton, David Baker, Benjamin Darling, and William Jackson. This committee made, at the next meeting of the government, the following report: —

When the Mechanic Association was first formed, it was found not only expedient, but indispensable, to form a government to manage and superintend its affairs. Such a government was formed, and by the records it will be seen that many who were then honored with offices have continued with us till the present time, and who, we trust, have had no reason to regret the part they have taken in establishing and continuing its operations. Most new societies have something about them which generally excites considerable interest, and such as are called to the management of them engage with great earnestness and attention in the discharge of their official duties. But in almost every institution, it must be granted, that time produces depression, novelty ceases, and the interest which was once so easily excited in the members seems to give place to lethargy and indifference; consequently its objects must be either abandoned, or the management borne by a few, who are always ready to apply their shoulders to the wheel. Such we believe to be the result of most institutions, formed upon principles which first set the projectors of our own in operation; and such certainly is the situation of many similar institutions in our sister states. But, thank Heaven, the reverse is the fact with the one in which we are now engaged. Those who had the pleasure to sow its seeds have seen them shoot forth and grow in strength, until the branches are sufficient to overspread the whole fraternity. It now stands like the sturdy oak, defying the winds and the tempest. To what shall this be attributed? The causes are many; but the primary one we take to be the great unanimity and punctuality with which the governmental

affairs have been administered. It is believed that no institution can be successfully managed without great punctuality on the part of those whose duty it is to conduct its affairs, and as we are designed and made for social beings, that punctuality seems to be in exact proportion to the social spirit which pervades the breasts of those, thus designated at stated times to meet each other. But extravagance is not the cause of punctuality; in fact it eventually subverts it. Your committee believe that such arrangements may be made by the government as will put it in the power of every member of the association to belong to it (if chosen) without any injury to his pecuniary concerns or mortification to a just and laudable ambition. With such views, we ask leave to offer the following resolutions: —

Resolved, That it is not expedient to suspend the meetings and entertainments of the government at the houses of each member, inasmuch as an abandonment of this rallying point might endanger that punctuality and sociability which has for five and twenty years been so conspicuous.

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of the nine trustees, in the month of March, to meet and form a bill of fare; which bill shall be strictly adhered to the current year; and any trustee who shall deviate in any particular, shall forfeit Twenty dollars, to be paid into the library fund.

Resolved, That we duly appreciate the motives of the projectors of the apprentices library, and are well satisfied that the acceptance of it will ultimately be of great advantage to this association; and that as a government we shall, with great pleasure, give all the time to its management which the importance of the institution shall require: but as such, we do not consider it proper to raise its funds by our own donations, as it will form a precedent which may prove a serious injury to our future welfare.

Resolved, That while the government of this association is willing to take upon itself the management of an institution, the benefit of which is to be felt by every part of society, society, independent of this association, ought to be willing to furnish the means of defraying all the incidental expenses.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed, whose duty it shall be to lay before the public a statement of facts which it is believed are now unknown to them, and endeavor to obtain a certain number of yearly subscribers for the purpose of raising a sufficient sum to defray the expenses of the Apprentices Library. Per order.

Signed, STEPHEN FAIRBANKS, *Chairman.*

The report and resolutions were unanimously accepted, and a committee was appointed to carry into effect the last resolution.

A committee was appointed to confer with the school committee of the town, on the propriety of extending the

plan of the contemplated "classical school,"* so as to admit apprentices to its advantages in an evening school. The committee, of which the vice-president was chairman, after considerable deliberation, reported that it was inexpedient to make such an application,—and the report was accepted.

The committee appointed in November, of which also the vice-president was chairman, to consider the expediency of circulating a subscription paper, to raise funds for the purchase of additional books, reported, "That, as in June last, they raised by subscription a considerable sum for premiums and for the library, and that, in all probability, they will annually resort to the same mode of raising money for these purposes, they are of opinion that, to have recourse to it now would be bringing the society too frequently before the public; they therefore think it inexpedient." The committee proposed the exchanging of some of the books in the library, —especially a set of Rees's Cyclopedia, for "books of a more popular character." (!!)

The government had been directed to see if any and what alterations were necessary in the constitution, and came to the conclusion that it was expedient to propose a change in the days stated for the quarterly meetings, and unanimously recommended that, "instead of the present times of the yearly and quarterly meetings, they be as follows, viz:—On the first Thursday of January, April, and October, and on the day of the celebration of the anniversary of American Independence. The choice of officers shall be in October annually." This change was approved by the association, and became a part of the constitution.

It had been found that the exhibition for premiums on the Fourth of July interfered with plans for pleasure and recreation on that day; the government decided that the exhibition, in future, "should be on the day of the triennial celebration, instead of the Fourth of July. The exhibition accordingly took place on the fourth day of October, at the

* The "English Classical School,"—now called the English High School,—was established this year, by the vote of the town.

usual place and with the usual ceremonies. The following is the record of awards, viz:—

| | |
|---|---|
| To Joseph Francis, for the best boat, | $45 00 |
| To John M. Foster, for the best saddle, | 20 00 |
| To Henry H. Barton, for the second best, | 10 00 |
| To Robert Hume, for the best brass fire-sett, | 15 00 |
| To John Knapp, for the second, | 8 00 |
| To Charles A. Wells, for the best book-binding, | 10 00 |
| To Charles Stimpson, for second best, | 5 00 |
| To Joseph Wilder, for best edge-tool, | 10 00 |
| To Robert Hewes, for starch and powder, | 5 00 |
| To David Baker, for a quadrant, | 5 00 |

The committee that was appointed to procure the money to pay these premiums, employed Jacob Kuhn to solicit subscriptions for that purpose. The *exact* amount obtained does not appear in the record; but it exceeded Three hundred dollars.

The Triennial Festival recurring this year, a committee of arrangements, consisting as usual, of the government, and twelve other members, was appointed in July. Thomas Wells (a former secretary) was invited to deliver the public address on the occasion, and accepted the invitation. The invitations of the committee extended to about sixty gentlemen of distinction and official characters.

The annual meeting having been changed from the third Wednesday of December to the first Thursday of October, the report of the committee on the secretary and treasurer's accounts embraced, of course, the proceedings of only nine months. The property of the association amounted to *Nine thousand three hundred and eighty-seven dollars and forty-one cents.*

Six members, (one of whom, Isaac P. Davis, was an original member,) withdrew from the association. Forty-one were admitted, viz:—

Benjamin Abrams, Cooper.
John Urann, Cooper.
Moses Miller, Cooper.
Aaron Rand, Cooper.
Lewis Burckiss, Cabinet-maker.
Thomas Whitmarsh, Tailor.
Ezra Dyer, Tailor.
James Spear, Cooper.
Lewis A. Laureat, Gold-beater.
Charles Tileston, Hatter.

Nathaniel Grover, Shipsmith.
John Allen, Housewright.
Nathaniel Rice, Housewright.
Lendell Pitts, Housewright.
Peter Cudworth, Housewright.
Samuel Darling, Housewright.
Luther Farwell, Housewright.
John Greenwood, Housewright.
James Denton, Housewright.
Cornelius Briggs, Carver.
Samuel Dennis, Bricklayer.
Abraham Call, Tailor.
Jones Dow, Tailor.
Frederick Lane, Turner.
Nathaniel E. Bell, Bricklayer.
Isaiah Souther, Housewright.
Alpheus Carey, Stone-cutter.
John Ross, Hairdresser.
Robert Ripley, Cooper.
Joseph Lincoln, Housewright.
Hezekiah Stoddard, Housewright.
John Ladd, Housewright.
William Williams, Distiller.
William Wiswall, Cordwainer.
Thomas Tirrell, Cordwainer.
Joseph Hastings, Tallow-chandler.
Abel Stearns, Currier.
Isaac J. Bicknell, Currier.
John Saville, Tailor.
Solomon Cotton, Painter.
Charles Stimpson, Bookbinder.

The number of deaths was five, viz. John Loring, Braddock Loring, Stephen Shelton, Richard Faxon, and William Lankester.

As the last business, previous to the public services of the occasion, was the choice of officers, the president addressed the meeting, — adverted to the length of time he had endeavored to serve the association as its president, and the pleasure and satisfaction he had enjoyed, — and wished to be no longer a candidate for the office. The government was then organized as follows: —

John Cotton, *President*.
John Doggett, *Vice-President*.
Joseph Lovering, *Treasurer*.
David Francis, *Secretary*.

Thomas Hughes,
Stephen Fairbanks,
Benjamin Darling,
Ephraim Marsh,
George Darracott,
Nathaniel Faxon,
Benjamin Russell,
Joseph Jenkins,
Francis Jackson,
*Trustees*.

The committee of relief was re-chosen, and the sum of Two hundred dollars placed at their disposal.

Mr. Hunewell offered the following: — "Voted, That the thanks of this association be presented to Benjamin Russell, Esq. for his able, successful, and unceasing exertions to promote the interest, honor, and happiness of this association, during the fourteen years which he, with honor to himself and pride to the association, has presided over it." This was

unanimously passed, and the secretary was instructed to transmit a copy of it to Mr. Russell.

Gerry Fairbanks submitted the following, which was also unanimously adopted: — "Resolved, That a committee of six be chosen, for the purpose of procuring a silver pitcher, with suitable inscriptions, to be paid for from the funds of the association, with directions to present the same to Benjamin Russell, Esq. in testimony of their respect and approbation for his able and faithful services as president of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association." The committee was composed of the president, Messrs. Hunewell, G. Fairbanks, Purkitt, D. Messinger, and Wilkinson.

The association, with those who had been invited to participate in the festival, were formed into a procession, under Benjamin Loring, as chief marshal, and moved to the meeting-house in Hollis-street, where religious services were performed by the Rev. John Pierpont, — an address delivered by Mr. Wells, — and an ode and a hymn (both written by Mr. Pierpont) were sung by a choir.* Returning to Faneuil

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* Extract from Mr. Wells's address: —

"Persevere, my friends, in all your beneficent exertions, keeping in mind the instability of all earthly possessions, and the extreme frailty of that dependence, which is attached too strongly thereto. Enlarge your sphere of usefulness; constantly endeavor, by your example and exertions, to promote industry, prudence, temperance, and contentment; which, superior to the fabled powers of the philosopher's stone, while they place above the reach of want, generally afford the invaluable blessing of health, as a zest to enjoyment. How much of the public prosperity and happiness depends on a right appreciation of these virtues!

"The numerous useful inventions of our country, to encourage industry, and diminish the severity of manual labor; the application of steam, to an extent unheard of in former times; the more extended knowledge of chemistry, as applied to the purposes of common life, with its introduction and beneficial use in various mechanic and manufacturing establishments; as well as the great improvements, which have recently taken place in many of these valuable establishments; are themes which would require a notice too ample for the present occasion.

"The first president of this association was Paul Revere, Esq. a man of preëminent mechanic abilities, integrity, firmness, and usefulness; by whose enterprizing genius and persevering exertions many useful manufactures and improvements have been introduced and established, honorable to our country.

"The first vice-president was Edward Tuckerman, Esq. whose industry and worth are strongly associated with his memory, especially by the citizens of this part of the town, and the elder brethren of this association. These offices they filled for four successive years, with much honor to themselves, and great satisfaction to the associates, when they declined any further re-election. After living to view, with pleasure, the

Hall, the association partook of a sumptuous dinner, enlivened with sentiment, speeches, and songs. Of the songs, one was written by Alpheus Carey, a member, and one by Josiah

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pleasing prospect of the extension and permanency of this fabric, which they so largely assisted in erecting, they were called, by the Supreme Architect, as we trust, to make part of that spiritual building, which is subject to no decay; together with the philanthropic Wright, so long the able treasurer of the association; the upright, industrious Cotton, the father of your newly-elected president; the generous Breed, whose attachment to this institution was so strongly evinced by the reversionary legacy, bequeathed in his last will; the respected Andrews, once your secretary; the scientific artist, and civilian, Fairbanks, whose valued address, before the association nine years since, is still in your memories; the candid, promising Eliot, the modest printer; the patriarchal McKean, the benevolent citizen, a genuine descendant of Sir William Wallace, and firm disciple of Washington; and recently, Deacon Richard Faxon, an original member, an honor to society, and first on your first list of trustees; whose memory will long be cherished wherever his name was known.

"Would time permit, we might usefully extend the association of ideas on the order of Providence, produced by a recurrence to the respected names of Eliot, and McKean, the father of one and the son of the other having been eminent scholars and ministers, all closely united in friendship and ties of affection, all eminent in their respective professions, combining their intellectual pleasures with their attachment to the duties of common life — now gone to reap their reward.

'That life is long, which answers life's great end.'"

ORIGINAL ODE, written for the occasion by the Rev. John Pierpont.

Spirit of Wisdom and of Power!
The works of Egypt's mightiest hour,
  The pyramid and vaulted tomb,
The peerless fane of David's Son,
The giant towers of Babylon, —
  Old works of grandeur and of gloom, —

Thy curtained ark, the jeweled vest
That gleamed of old on Aaron's breast, —
  Works for their glorious beauty famed, —
All these, by thine informing mind,
In strength were reared, with skill designed,
  And lead our thoughts to thee, when named.

Lone columns, on th' Ionian shore,
And sculptured ruins, scattered o'er
  Athenian and Corinthian plains,
Of Heaven's departed spirit speak,
That shed a glory round the Greek,
  And threw its last light on his chains.

The conqueror's arch, the temple's dome,
Of pagan and of Christian Rome,
  That kindling spirit taught to swell;
And many a tall monastic pile,
Still frowning o'er our father's isle,
  Of thy past inspirations tell.

Spurr. The usual complimentary votes of thanks were passed, and a copy of Mr. Wells's address requested for publication. The record of these proceeding closes with the following paragraph: — "*The secretary is forbid to say that another donation of One hundred dollars was received from our old friend and patron, His Honor* WILLIAM PHILLIPS."

One of the clergymen invited on this occasion was the Right Reverend Bishop Chevereux of the Roman Catholic church, who attended the services throughout the day, and pronounced a benediction at the dinner table.

A special meeting of the government was held for the purpose of passing a few formal votes, concerning the library and the investment of funds. At this meeting, Joseph Jenkins, Thomas Hughes, and Benjamin Darling, were appointed a committee to inquire into the expediency of printing a

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The arts that bid our navies ride,
And thunder o'er the trackless tide,
  The arts of dove-winged peace, are thine.
Spirit of Wisdom and of Power!
Be thou our undecaying tower,
  And our adoring hearts thy shrine.

ORIGINAL HYMN, by the same.

Now to the God, to whom all might
  And glory, in all worlds belong,
Who fills, unseen, his throne of light,
  Come, let us sing a general song.

His Spirit wrapped the mantling air,
  Of old, around our infant Earth,
And, on her bosom, warm and fair,
  Gave her young lord his joyous birth.

He smiles on morning's rosy way:
  He paints the gorgeous clouds of even:
To noon, he gives its ripening ray;
  To night, the view of glorious heaven.

He drives along those sparkling globes,
  In circles of unerring truth;
He decks them all in radiant robes,
  And crowns them with eternal youth.

So will he crown the upright mind,
  When life and all its toils are o'er:
Then let his praise, on every wind
  Rise, till the winds shall wake no more.

revised and complete edition of the constitution, and to suggest any alterations they may deem necessary.

The newly-elected government began the exercise of its prerogative in November, by some acts of justice and some of generosity. Arrearages were remitted, — a few delinquents were deprived of their membership, — certain notes for past assessments were delivered to the promisers, — and one, — the note of J. T. Buckingham for the balance due from him as secretary, — was discharged by his bill for printing the address of Mr. Wells. A donation of Twenty dollars was received by the committee of relief from William Jackson. — A committee was appointed "to examine into the expenditures of the association for the last ten years, to see if it be possible to discontinue any of the present assessments, without detriment to the funds." When the committee presented its report, the government voted, that it was inexpedient to recommend any reduction of assessments.

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## 1822.

At the quarterly meeting in January, a committee, previously instructed to procure a silver pitcher, to be presented to Mr. Russell, the late president, handed to the president the article with a suitable inscription thereon. Mr. Russell having just entered the hall, the president addressed him as follows: —

In pursuance of the wish of the society, as declared in their vote at their annual meeting, it now becomes my pleasing duty to request your acceptance of this token of their respect for your talents, and gratitude for the application of them to the use of this association, in the various offices you have sustained with so much honor to yourself and so much advantage to it. It is not offered as a reward for these or those services, — for that they can only refer you to a consciousness of the faithful performance of arduous duties; but they offer it as an expression of attachment for an able, zealous, steady friend; and I hope it will at times recall to your mind some of the happy hours we have enjoyed together.

To which Mr. Russell replied: —

Mr. President, — Having, until within a few moments of my entrance into this room, been engaged for many hours in a very painful duty,* my mind is ill at ease to reply, as I ought, to the kind and brotherly manner, in which you have complied with the commission confided to you by the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, to present to me this invaluable testimonial of their confidence and esteem.

But my heart, Mr. President, must be colder than ice, if it were not susceptible of the most grateful emotions on an occasion so calculated to affect it; — and, believe me, Sir, when I assure you that I esteem this vessel, — coming from the source whence it has proceeded, and offered with so much unanimity by associates, whose worth, integrity, and good feelings I have, for so many years been the constant witness, — more highly than if it were made of the gold of Ophir and filled with diamonds.

*Be just and fear not* is the motto which it bears. In the discharge of all the duties imposed on me by the numerous offices to which I have been elected by the partiality of our associates, I assure you, Mr. President, that to be *just* has been my utmost endeavor, however imperfectly I may have attained it, and in the discharge of my duties I have known no other *fear*, than the fear of displeasing them. And I can add, with the utmost sincerity, that during my long, long connection with you, Mr. President, my brother officers, and brother associates, the duty, which this motto inculcates, has been their guide and object in all their proceedings. And permit me, Sir, further to add, that while, as associates, they adhere to this motto, the respectability they have attained in the community, of which they form so important a part, and the usefulness which has flowed to the arts and humanity from their benevolence and example, will be but a foretaste of that respectability and usefulness to which this association will arrive.

Mr. President, I accept this piece of plate with pleasure and gratitude, and again thank you for the kind and affectionate manner in which you have presented it.

The president laid before the government a letter, of which the following is a copy: —

*Boston, ss.* At a meeting of the Selectmen, February 26, 1822.

Whereas the laws of this commonwealth provide that the selectmen of the several towns may annually appoint, by a writing under their hands, any suitable person or persons as auctioneers in said towns, and that they shall keep a record of the same, and shall receive for their own use for

* Mr. Russell had been engaged during many hours as the foreman of a jury, on the trial of two persons indicted for murder.

each and every license so granted the sum of Two dollars: — And whereas the selectmen of the town of Boston did, in the year 1820, license fifty-nine persons as auctioneers, and did also, in the year 1821, license sixty-one auctioneers, the money arising from the same amounted to Two hundred and forty dollars, which sum the selectmen decline receiving to their own use; but they deem it proper and expedient that the same should be by them appropriated in a suitable manner: —

Therefore, voted, That the sum of One hundred and eighty dollars, remaining in the hands of the treasurer of this board, be by him paid over to the town clerk, who shall transmit the same to the president and members of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, together with a copy of this vote, as a donation from the selectmen of the town of Boston, for the purpose of constituting a fund for the relief of distressed members, and the families of indigent members of that association, the interest of which to be appropriated by the committee of relief to these objects.

A true copy from the record.

Attest, THOMAS CLARK, *Town Clerk.*

After some debate as to the best mode of investing this donation, and making a separate fund of it when the whole stock in the association is for benevolent purposes, the subject was referred to the president, vice-president, and treasurer, as a committee, "with full power to act thereon, and to return to the selectmen such an answer as they deemed proper." The committee reported "that the government do, in behalf of the association, gratefully receive the said One hundred and eighty dollars for the purpose of forming a fund, which, with such sums as may be given for similar purposes, shall be called the "Relief Fund," the interest only of which shall be applied by the committee of relief to assist indigent members, or the families of distressed members of this society." A letter of thanks was sent to the selectmen.

The committee, which had been appointed to revise the constitution, reported a new draft, changing the phraseology in some of the articles, and providing for a different organization of some of the committees. The most important change in this respect was the provision that a committee of finance should be organized at the first meeting of every newly-elected government, to consist of the president and vice-president, and three trustees to be chosen by written votes. Some of the duties of officers and committees were more particularly defined, but the essential features of the

constitution remained unchanged.* The new draft was discussed in the government at several meetings, and was subjected to a searching examination by the association at large, before its adoption.

The library and the funds were subjects of careful attention. Exchanges of stocks were frequently made with advantage to the funds, which at the close of the year presented an aggregate of *Nine thousand one hundred and seventy dollars and fifty-one cents.*

Nine persons were admitted members: —

John Kuhn, Tailor.
John Molineux, Brass-founder.
Edward D. Clark, Coppersmith.
Henry H. Barton, Saddler.
Edward Phillips, Painter.
Stephen Robbins, Boot-maker.
George Welles, Silver-manufacturer.
Edward Crehore, Hatter.
Gridley Bryant, Bricklayer.

The arrearages of six members were remitted, — one of whom was discharged at his own request. Seven members, viz. Joseph Callender, Levi Hearsey, Benjamin T. Wells, Stukely B. Fessenden, A. O. Barton, and Daniel Clap, died during the year.

Messrs. John Coffin Jones, James Lloyd,
James Perkins, John Phillips,

merchants of Boston, were admitted as honorary members.

The vice-president, John Doggett, declined a re-election, and Thomas W. Sumner was elected to that office. Samuel T. Armstrong, George Domett, and Francis Southack were chosen trustees to fill the places of Thomas Hughes, Stephen Fairbanks, and Benjamin Darling, whose constitutional term of service expired. All the other officers of the year were re-elected.

Two hundred dollars (the usual sum) was placed at the disposal of the committee of relief.

Twenty dollars were given, by a vote of the government, to a member (a cabinet-maker) who had lost, by fire, his workshop and most of his tools. The same sum was also

* No copy of this draft of the constitution is on record, nor have I been able to find a printed copy. Of course, this statement is made entirely from memory.

given to the widow of Levi Hearsey, (although Mr. Hearsey had lost all claim to the fund by several years of negligence) in consideration of the fact that he was an original member, and that the "widow was now in a situation in which some relief would be desirable."

Agreeably to a provision in the new constitution, the government, at its first meeting appointed the committee of finance, viz. the president, the vice-president, Ephraim Marsh, George Darracott, and Nathaniel Faxon, — the last three chosen by ballot.

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## 1823.

Alexander Parris, a member, presented to the library a file of the "Independent Bostonian," for which he received thanks on the instant. After some observations on the nature and object of the paper, he requested that the association would give a recommendation of its utility to mechanics. The subject was referred to the government, which voted such a recommendation inexpedient.

Joseph Batson, another member, also presented, for the library, a number of drafts and designs in architecture, which were accepted with thanks.

Hon. Christopher Gore presented to the library a large and expensive book, entitled "Recueil Parallelle des Edifices," — for which the president returned the usual vote of thanks.

The library committee, by their chairman, S. T. Armstrong, reported a circular, for distribution among the mechanics, requesting aid, to enable the government to continue their care of the library, — which was ordered to be printed and circulated.

For want of funds to pay the current expenses of the library, it was ordered to be closed on the second of April.

Renewed efforts were made to collect arrearages.

Two members, viz. Joseph Stokes and Daniel Tuttle, deceased; one withdrew his membership; and the names of four were stricken from the books. Three persons were admitted members: —

Luke Richardson, Hair-worker. Truman O. Hurlbert, Tin-plate-worker.
Walter Cornell, Stove-manufacturer.

The committee of finance, having examined the accounts of the secretary and treasurer, reported that the property of the association consisted of the following items viz: —

| | |
|---|---|
| Stock in the Mechanics' and Manufacturers' Bank, | $5,000 00 |
| Advance on do. 2 per cent. | 100 00 |
| Stock in the Eagle Bank, | 3,000 00 |
| Advance, 4 per cent. | 120 00 |
| Six per cent. stock, | 100 00 |
| Seven per cent. stock, | 200 00 |
| Advance, | 6 00 |
| Plate and certificates, | 200 00 |
| Stove, chairs, tables, &c. | 54 00 |
| Cash on hand, | 352 80 |
| Relief fund, | 178 80 |
| | $9,311 60 |
| And a reversion in the estate of William Breed, of | $1,000 00 |

The vice-president, Mr. Sumner, declined a re-election. Joseph Jenkins, one of the trustees, whose constitutional term had not expired, also declined further service in that capacity. The following officers were then elected: —

John Cotton, *President.*
Samuel Perkins, *Vice-President.*
Joseph Lovering, *Treasurer.*
David Francis, *Secretary.*

Benjamin Russell, Simon Wilkinson,
Francis Jackson, Turell Tuttle, jun.
Samuel T. Armstrong, Joseph S. Read,
George Domett, John P. Thorndike,
Francis Southac,
*Trustees.*

Francis Jackson, Oliver Johonnot,
Ephraim Marsh, Benjamin Clark,
Daniel Messinger, Isaac Harris,
Jonathan Harrington, Zephaniah Sampson,
*Committee of Relief.*

The following letter was received from His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor: — "Mr. Phillips presents his compliments to the president of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, and requests him to apply the within to the use of the library for mechanics' apprentices, in such

manner as the trustees of the association may judge best." The inclosure was a bank note of One hundred dollars; which was accepted, and a reply enclosing a vote of thanks was returned.

An application was made to the government, by a Mr. Jenckes that the association would purchase one or more of his patent "Alleviators," (a machine to raise the sick from their beds) for the use of their members; which was referred to a committee. The committee reported that "the machine is not exactly suited to any purpose the society might want; that the cost is too high; and that no farther proceedings be had on the subject." The report was accepted.

Turell Tuttle, jun. declined serving as a trustee, and Enoch Hobart was chosen to fill the vacancy.

The following letter was transmitted to the government by the gentleman to whom it was directed:—

*Springfield, Nov.* 18, 1823.

SIR, — I have been informed, with much satisfaction, of the establishment of the mechanic apprentices' library in Boston, and through the medium of your paper have since learnt that contributions to it would be acceptable. I am a mechanic myself, and served my apprenticeship in Boston; and having had the advantage of a social library while there, am very sensible of the value of an institution of the kind in any town. I enclose Five dollars, and send a set of Trumbull's History of Connecticut, which I wish you would have the goodness to offer to the library, to be disposed of as their directors may think proper, and hope, at the same time, that it may be received with my best wishes for the prosperity of the institution. CHARLES STEARNS.

BENJAMIN RUSSELL, Esq.

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# 1824.

Dr. John W. Webster intimated a wish that the members of the association should attend a course of lectures on chemistry and mineralogy, which he was about to deliver, and proposed that, if any number of subscribers (not less than twenty) should be obtained, one half of the avails of the tickets should

given to the apprentices' library. The proposal was referred to a committee, who made exertions to procure twenty subscribers, but were not successful. Dr. Webster then presented to the library fund half of the proceeds of all the tickets sold to members of the association. Seventy-two dollars was the amount thus collected, one half of which, — Thirty-six dollars, — was received by the government and appropriated to the use of the library.

The committee which had been appointed to procure an orator for the triennial festival reported, that they had invited Alpheus Carey to perform that service, and had received from him the following reply: —

*Boston, Feb.* 9, 1824.

GENTLEMEN, — Your communication of the fifth inst. is duly received, which, as a committee from the government of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, you request me to deliver an address at their next triennial celebration. It would perhaps have been more fortunate, had you selected one, whose literary attainments, as well as experience in public speaking, are superior to my own. But the deep interest I have always felt in the cause of the arts and the prosperity of the institution of which I have the honor to be a member, will not permit me to decline your invitation. If such, therefore, is the wish of the government, I shall accept it; and, relying on the candor of my brethren, will endeavor, as far as my humble abilities will permit, to sustain the reputation of our association. I am, &c. &c. ALPHEUS CAREY.

To S. PERKINS, B. RUSSELL, and F. JACKSON, Esq'rs.

Whereupon it was voted, that the same committee inform Mr. Carey that it is the unanimous desire of the government that he should deliver an address at the next triennial festival.

A communication was received from S. Fairbanks, requesting the government to consider the expediency of assisting Mrs. David in educating her deaf and dumb child at the Hartford Asylum. A committee, to whom the application was referred, reported in favor of allowing her Twenty dollars, — the largest sum which the government could grant in any one case. The members of the government thought the sum was too small to be of any essential service, and voted to refer the subject to the association, with a recommendation that Fifty dollars should be given to Mrs. David. The proposition came before the association at its quarterly meeting in July. After

discussion, it was suggested that the Legislature might be induced to afford relief in the case, and it was voted that a committee, consisting of S. Fairbanks, J. T. Buckingham, and F. Jackson, make the proper inquiries, — to obtain what aid the Legislature might grant, — and, in case of failure to appropriate Fifty dollars from the funds, to assist in the education of the lad.

At the government meeting in July, the president stated that he had received a letter from the mayor of the city, implicating the directors of the library; whereupon the following preamble and vote were passed: —

Whereas Mr. Jones Dow, in the year 1821, applied to be admitted a member of this association, and, having passed the government, was, on the fourth of July, in the same year, balloted in, and duly notified of the same by the secretary, — but neglecting to comply with the rules and orders of the association; therefore

Voted unanimously, That his name be erased from the record-book, wherever it appears. And, having very unadvisedly made a complaint to the mayor concerning a book which was delivered to one of his apprentices, instead of a respectful application to the library directors; voted, that he be debarred, in future, all privileges in the library, and that no books be delivered to his apprentices.

The letter of the mayor, of which the following is a copy, was committed to the president, S. T. Armstrong, and F. Jackson: —

*Boston, June* 23, 1824.

Sir, — I have received a complaint against the managers, or trustees, of the apprentices' library, and, understanding that it is under your general superintendence, I take the liberty to state the nature of the complaint, and to request your particular attention to the subject. It is said that books of a very exceptionable character are permitted to be distributed in families from that library, and that there is not such a supervision exercised in relation to the nature of the books circulated from it as ought to be required. A respectable citizen has made a formal complaint to me upon that subject, and has left a book with me, which he has taken from his apprentice, which is of the character above specified, and has been circulated among the females, his domestics, to his great annoyance. I shall be happy to have an interview on the subject, whenever your leisure permits; being very truly and respectfully yours, &c.

JOSIAH QUINCY, *Mayor.*

John Cotton, Esq. *President of the Mechanic Association.*

The committee, after suitable investigation, made the following report: —

They are at a loss to perceive what motive has led the party to prefer his complaint to that officer, and they would avail themselves of the present opportunity respectfully to state, that they cannot consider themselves, either as individuals or associates, in any manner accountable to the mayor for what has been done, or may hereafter be done, in regard to the management of the library. Your committee have reason to believe that a careful supervision has been exercised over the library. It was therefore with surprize and regret that they thought they could perceive, in the letter of the mayor, evidence of his belief in the slander attempted to be propagated against the association through their committee, in the assertion that "books of a very exceptionable character are permitted to be distributed into families from that library; and that there is not that supervision exercised in relation to the nature of the books circulated from it, as ought to be required." The book in question appears to have been written by a medical gentlemen for the use of his profession; and, from such an inspection as leisure has permitted, little or nothing has been noticed, which, in the judgement of your committee, is calculated to inflame the most prurient imagination. The committee have great pleasure in stating their confident opinion, that the library has been, is now, and will continue to be, a source of high gratification, and a means of solid improvement to that class of persons for whose use it was designed. The committee would not fail, in this place, to express their full belief that the conduct of the mayor in this affair has arisen from a desire to promote the best interests of society, and that they entertain the highest respect for his personal and public character.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN COTTON,
S. T. ARMSTRONG,
FRANCIS JACKSON.

The report was accepted, and a copy of it sent to the mayor.

The usual measures preparatory to the celebration of the triennial festival were adopted. At one of the meetings of the committee of arrangements, information was given that General Lafayette was expected to visit Boston, and a desire prevailed that he should be invited to the festival; and to this end, it was proposed to alter a provision in the constitution, in order that the festival might be held at an earlier day than that specified in the constitution. At a subsequent meeting the committee on invitations reported that they had waited on General Lafayette, and presented to him a copy

of the vote, inviting him to a public dinner; that he presented his thanks to the committee, and said he would return an answer in writing. His answer was sent to the secretary, and is in the words following:—

*Boston, August 28, 1824.*

SIR,—My respect for the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, and my gratitude for their kind invitation, cannot but greatly increase my regret to be imperiously limited by time in this first visit to Boston. I just came to gratify my ardent desire to find myself again in this city; but in a few days must proceed to the South, and am pre-engaged for every moment previous to my departure. But, on my return to Boston, before I leave this shore of liberty, I will claim the welcome proposal, which I now lament not to have in my power to accept; and I beg in the mean while your respectable society to receive the expression of my veneration and attachment. LAFAYETTE.

To the Secretary of the Mechanic Association.

By the government, "Voted unanimously, that in consideration of the pre-eminent talents and important services in the cause of our country of the Marquis de Lafayette, that it be recommended to the association, that his name be enrolled as an honorary member, and he be entitled to all the privileges thereof." This vote was unanimously confirmed by the association.

The supervision of the library occupied the attention of the government, more or less, at every meeting. The committee appointed in January, 1824, to collect subscriptions to pay the current expenses of it, after much labor, obtained ninety annual subscribers for the term of five years,—sixty of which agreed to pay Two dollars each annually, and thirty to pay One dollar. Eight individuals contributed the sum of Sixty dollars. The whole amount for the year was Two hundred and ten dollars. It was supposed that the net proceeds of the subscription for five years would cover all expenses for that term. It was therefore recommended by the committee, and ordered by the government, that the library should be kept open until the subscription-money should be expended.

The awarding of premiums for specimens of workmanship in the mechanic arts, was suspended for the present year.

Thirty persons were admitted to membership: —

Abner Joy, Stone-cutter.
Daniel Safford, Blacksmith.
George Hills, Housewright.
Robert Bacon, Hatter.
David Felt, Bookbinder.
William Adams, Blacksmith.
Charles M. Dommett, Saddler.
Ephraim Harrington, Bricklayer.
Cephas Carter, Bricklayer.
George W. Dyar, Clock-maker.
William D. Bell, Sailmaker.
Jacob Amee, Sailmaker.
J. L. C. Amee, Sailmaker.
Isaac Scott, Pump and Block-maker.
Thomas Dewhurst, Tin-plate-work
William Carleton, Tin-plate-worker.
Nathaniel Bryant, Cabinet-maker.
Solomon Loud, Cabinet-maker.
Simon Hastings, Housewright.
Daniel Hastings, Housewright.
Oliver Mills, Housewright.
James Macallaster, Housewright.
Nathaniel Cotton, Housewright.
Jesse Shaw, Housewright.
George S. Newell, Housewright.
Israel Brown, Tailor.
James Hamilton, Watch-maker.
Charles Loring, Coppersmith.
Uriel Crocker, Printer.
John Hall, Silk-dyer.

One member withdrew from the association, and the names of three were erased.

John Drayton, Joshua James, Joseph Wilcott, Christopher Porter, Thomas Howe, and Simon Gardner,* died during the year. The whole number of members at the close of the official year, as reported, was two hundred and seventy-two.

Several changes were made in the investment of the funds. The entire property of the association (including Seven hun-

* Simon Gardner was, in early boyhood, employed in the office of Russell & Cutler, publishers of the Boston Gazette, and served in the capacity of errand-boy, carrier, apprentice, and clerk. After the death of Mr. Cutler, he purchased a right in the publication, and eventually, by purchase of Mr. Russell's share, became the sole proprietor. He died, on the 19th of April, 1824, in the thirty-fourth year of his age, sincerely lamented by all who knew him. In an obituary notice, written by Samuel L. Knapp, it was said, and most truly, that Mr Gardner "had properties of mind and heart worthy of the fondest recollection. He was a dutiful son, a kind husband, a warm-hearted and generous friend. From childhood he was distinguished for industry, enterprize, and integrity. He feared no labor nor spared any pains in the discharge of his professional duties. He had an extraordinary tact for business; but even in his zeal to do much, he never assumed to know and do what he did not understand, but looked at what he was engaged in with a good share of that common sense, which leads to correct conclusions and successful results. He was desirous of accumulating wealth, and dwelt upon his plans with enthusiasm; but, in every dream of opulence, he united some delightful scheme of benevolence and friendship. When perplexed, as he sometimes was, by stepping forward to serve an acquaintance, who afterwards failed to make good his promises, he felt grieved, and was chafed for a moment, but instantly set about framing apologies for his debtor, and would not believe that want of gratitude or honesty was the cause of disappointment." Mr. Gardner had been, several years, a married man, and left an amiable widow, but had no children.

dred and ten dollars, the balance due from members,) was *Twelve thousand one hundred and seventy-six dollars and eighty-three cents*, as reported by the committee on finance.

The sum of Two hundred dollars was, as usual, placed at the disposal of the committee of relief.

The following officers were chosen for the succeeding year: —

| | |
|---|---|
| Samuel Perkins, *President.* | Joseph Lovering, *Treasurer.* |
| Joseph Jenkins, *Vice-President.* | David Francis, *Secretary.* |
| George Domett, | Enoch Hobart, |
| Francis Southac, | John Winship, |
| Simon Wilkinson, | George W. Otis, |
| Joseph S. Read, | John Rayner, |
| John P. Thorndike, | *Trustees.* |

The usual votes of thanks to the retiring officers having been passed, the members of the association with guests, numbering about forty, moved in procession to the West Church, (under the direction of Daniel Messinger as chief marshal,) where public services were performed, — the prayers by the Rev. Francis Parkman, — an address by Alpheus Carey. Mr. Carey's address was a plain, sensible, unostentatious composition, illustrating by examples the honorable position sustained by the mechanical and middle classes in society, and enforcing the necessity of intellectual cultivation, and the acquisition of the knowledge of all our institutions and laws by every mechanic. In the closing paragraph, he paid the following well-merited compliment to Mr. Quincy, the mayor of the city: —

"In the full tide of successful experiment," it is but justice to attribute in a great measure to the talents and enterprize of the distinguished individual, who is now at the head of our municipal government, the spirit of improvement, which at present prevails in this metropolis. Were this city Athens, *he* would be PERICLES; — with this difference, however, that, while one was deficient in many of those traits which constitute moral worth, the other unites in his character all those qualities which adorn and dignify the upright magistrate, and the virtuous citizen. With his zeal, intelligence, and devotion to the public weal, and the assistance of his able coadjutors, we may expect a continuance of that prosperity, which has hitherto characterized our city.

To the address succeeded the following ode, written ex-
ressly for the occasion, by Charles Sprague: —

ODE.

When from the sacred garden driven,
Man fled before his Maker's wrath,
An Angel left her place in heaven,
And crossed the wanderer's sunless path,
'Twas Art! sweet Art! New radiance broke,
Where her light foot flew o'er the ground,
And thus with seraph voice she spoke: —
"The *Curse* a *Blessing* shall be found."

She led him through the trackless wild,
Where noontide sunbeam never blazed; —
The thistle shrunk — the harvest smiled,
And nature gladdened as she gazed.
Earth's thousand tribes of living things,
At Art's command to him are given,
The village grows, the city springs,
And point their spires of faith to heaven.

He rends the oak — and bids it ride,
To guard the shores its beauty graced;
He smites the rock — upheaved in pride,
See towers of strength and domes of taste.
Earth's teeming caves their wealth reveal,
Fire bears his banner on the wave;
He bids the mortal poison heal,
And leaps triumphant o'er the grave.

He plucks the pearls that stud the deep,
Admiring Beauty's lap to fill;
He breaks the stubborn marble's sleep,
And mocks his own Creator's skill.
With thoughts that fill his glowing soul,
He bids the ore illume the page,
And proudly scorning Time's control,
Commerces with an unborn age.

In fields of air he writes his name,
And treads the chambers of the sky;
He reads the stars, and grasps the flame
That quivers round the Throne on high.
In war renowned, in peace sublime,
He moves in greatness and in grace;
His power, subduing space and time,
Links realm to realm, and race to race.

After the services at the church, the procession moved to
ıe festive entertainment at Faneuil Hall. At the table a
ɜtter was read by the president, from the Hon. William Phil-
ps, enclosing One hundred dollars, for the benefit of the

general purposes of the association. A number of original songs, written expressly for the occasion, were sung at the table, among which were the following:—

THE MARCH OF MIND IS WITH THE FREE — BY LEWIS G. FRAY.

When Science from her slumbers rose,
Resuming all her ancient pride,
She strode triumphant o'er her foes,
And spread her conquests far and wide.
But slavish systems old and strong,
Stayed the bold impulse learning gave;
And, Monarch of the mighty Song,
Man still remained the servile slave:
To teach the Nations God's decree —
'The March of Mind is with the Free.'

At length the Compass led her West,
Where Freedom nursed her infant day;
Thither the Pilgrim Fathers prest,
To find a place in peace to pray:
Then Cities rose as Forests fell;
And Art adorned what Wealth upreared:
The Press stood forth bold truths to tell;
But still the Mind, the monarch feared:
To teach the Nations God's decree —
'The March of Mind is with the Free."

To quell the foes against her met,
Then Freedom urged her votaries on;
In danger cheered by Lafayette —
To victory led by Washington.
And since those proud and glorious days,
Our course has been through seas of light;
On all has Learning shed her rays;
And Science banished Gothic night:
To teach the world this great decree —
'The March of Mind is with the Free.'

ALL HAIL TO THE ARTS — BY JOHN EVERETT.

When God bade the Earth "BE" from chaos and night,
And smiled on the form of his lovely creation;
He blessed the new mansion with beauty and light,
And gave it to man for his fair habitation.
'On the wide land, I give thee,
Go cheerful to toil;
And gain with thy hands,
The rich fruits of the soil;
And full be the harvests thy labors increase,
With the blessings of Health, and the safety of Peace.'

Then fell the hill-forest, and lo! in its place,
Fair temples arose at the voice of Devotion;

Deep fields spread their tributes of plenty and grace,
And cities, rock-built, fence the borders of ocean.
But more dear than the fortress,
More blest than the dome,
Was the low roof he builded
And called it "a home,"
Which smiles o'er the harvests his labors increase,
With Affection and Love in the safety of Peace.

He tempts the dark ocean and launches afar,
His castles, high-winged, to its uttermost distance,
To bear the deep voice of his thunders in war,
And win lovely peace, by a gallant resistance;
Or in nobler employ,
The full blessings to spread,
Of the labors of Art,
And the products of Trade—
And in Enterprize crowned bid his treasures increase,
With the glory of War, and the safety of Peace.

And hail to the Art, which its glory has found,
By Freedom and Truth the vast world to enlighten;
To cast the pure lustre of knowledge around,
And kindle the torches that bless as they brighten;
To weakness lend strength,
To oppression redress;
To Freedom its triumph,
All hail to the Press,
And hail to the light which its labors increase,
Of Science and Art in the safety of Peace.

And hail to our Land! may her pathway be spread
With the Heaven-cherished gifts of Truth, Virtue, and Science;
And Fame track her foot-steps wherever she tread—
Her Arts built on Virtue, in God her reliance:
Her banner in triumph
O'er ocean be borne—
And the wise, and the brave,
Her bright records adorn;
And to ages on ages her glories increase,
With the triumphs of War, or the safety of Peace.

At the first government meeting, October 27, a committee of finance and a committee to take charge of the library were chosen; and another committee was directed "to consider the expediency of establishing some more efficient means, whereby the several arts and trades embraced in the association may be improved."

# 1825.

An attempt to procure a hall for the accommodation of the association was renewed. A committee was instructed to ascertain if an eligible spot of land could be procured, whereon to erect a building, and another to procure plans and calculations. The committees entered upon their several commissions with great diligence. A report was made in favor of purchasing an estate at the corner of Court and Tremont streets, and several plans for repairing and altering the brick edifice standing thereon, and for erecting an entirely new building, with the estimated costs of each, were submitted. The government voted, that it was expedient to purchase this estate, and recommended that the association should issue scrip to the amount of Fifty thousand dollars, at an interest of six per cent. — to be first offered to the members, and not transferable, until presented to the government for acceptance. These proceedings were ratified by the association at a meeting in August. An agent was employed to wait upon all the members, to ascertain their minds in regard to loaning money at five per cent. interest, for the purpose of carrying on the project. One hundred and seventy-seven shares were subscribed for previous to the annual meeting in October. An attempt was then made to raise the rate of interest, but did not succeed. A committee of three members from each ward of the city was then chosen to call again upon the members and urge them to subscribe to the stock.

On motion of Alpheus Carey, that gentlemen and Isaac Harris, Gerry Fairbanks, Christopher Gore, and Charles C. Nichols, were appointed a committee to revise the constitution.

At the quarterly meeting in April, the government with thirteen other members were appointed a committee to make all necessary arrangements for a festival in honor of General Lafayette, who was expected to re-visit Boston in June. A sub-committee was appointed to obtain the signatures of such members as were disposed to unite in this mark of respect to the nation's guest. The dinner was given at the Marlboro'

l, on Monday, June 20, at which one hundred and sixty- members, twenty subscribers who were not members of ssociation, and twenty-seven invited guests were present. nty members, who subscribed and paid for tickets were t the dinner.*

e funds, the library, and the distribution of relief to those were in need, were subjects of constant attention at the ings of the government.

irty-nine candidates were admitted (most of them at a al meeting, preliminary to the dinner given to Lafayette) g the year, viz:—

Loring, Housewright.
zer Dyer, Housewright.
Hammond, Housewright.
Pratt, Housewright.
l Naptine, Housewright.
as Townsend, Housewright.
hy Emerson, Housewright.
Clough, Housewright.
Kingsley, Stucco-worker.
Low, Bricklayer.
el S. Bell, Bricklayer.
Bryant, Bricklayer.
Bacon, Bricklayer.
rick Lincoln, Bricklayer.
zer Nichols, Bricklayer.
m Stearns, Bricklayer.
niel Greene, Printer.
m R. Nichols, Printer.
m Hilliard, Printer.
s Stackpole, Hatter.
Smith, Hatter.
Moses Pond, Tin-plate-worker.
Amos Stevens, Balance-manufacturer.
John K. Simpson, Upholsterer.
David Peeler, Cordwainer.
Solomon Willard, Architect.
William Tileston, Manufacturer.
Hawkes Lincoln, jun. Bookbinder.
James Dyer, Pocket-book-manufacturer.
Samuel Johnson, Charlestown, Stone-mason.
George Redding, Painter.
Edward Russell, Painter.
Edmund Parsons, Cabinet-maker.
Edmund Wright, Printer.
Ezra Hawkes, Tin-plate-worker.
Philip Luther, Bricklayer.
Abel Turner, Tailor.
John Pierce, Optician.
William T. Spear, Cordwainer.

len Bowker, William Whall, Thomas Eaton, Jonathan ington,† George Weller, Jonathan Williams, William

r an account, in detail, of this complimentary festival, see "Appendix to 1825"

athan Harrington was a native of Watertown, served an apprenticeship with n Hunewell, — whose daughter he married, — and, for some years, conducted iness in Boston, with industry and success. He was liberal and open-handed to ds, especially to such as suffered under pecuniary embarrassment. One (at hom he relieved in circumstances of domestic calamity, cheerfully acknowl- he obligation to his friendship. He was twice married, and, at his death, left a but died childless.

Harris,* John A. Shaw, William Spear, and Enoch Kendall, died during the year.

The widow of Thomas Eaton returned to the treasurer the amount received from him according to the constitution, requesting that it might be divided among poor widows of deceased members. A letter of thanks and condolence was sent to her by the president. Mr. Eaton, in his will, left a donation of Two hundred dollars to the apprentices' library.

Three members were discharged at their request, and the name of one was erased for delinquency.

The salary of the secretary was raised to Fifty dollars.

The report of the committee of finance, made at the annual meeting, October 6, 1825, states the property of the association to consist of: —

| | |
|---|---|
| Globe Bank stock, . . . . . | $7,500 00 |
| Manufacturers' and Mechanics' Bank stock, | 2,500 00 |
| Six per cent. stock, . . . . . | 100 00 |
| Cash on hand, . . . . . | 1,692 84 |
| Balance due from members, . . . | 582 27 |
| | $12,375 11 |

Twelve thousand three hundred and seventy-five dollars and eleven cents.

The following were elected officers for the next year: —

Samuel Perkins, *President.* Joseph Lovering, *Treasurer.*
Joseph Jenkins, *Vice-President.* David Francis, *Secretary.*

* William Harris was born in Boston, July 23, 1778, and died February 28, 1825, in the forty-eighth year of his age. He served an apprenticeship of seven years at the mast-making business, with his father, and began business on his own account, in partnership with Jonathan Carey in 1799. This partnership was dissolved the next year, and Mr. Harris formed a new one with his brother, Isaac Harris, which continued till a short time before his death He was an original member of the Columbian Artillery company, and was the first commander of the Washington Artillery company. He was afterwards chosen major of artillery, and served several years in that capacity. He was several times a representative in the Legislature, and a member of the convention for revising the constitution of the state in 1820. He also served the town many years, as a fire-ward. He was an active and prominent member of the Federal party. As a member of our association he was highly esteemed for his upright and manly character, — a character frequently illustrated in his capacity as a trustee, as well as in that of an ordinary member. Active and public-spirited, he was a promoter of all projects of improvement, as far as lay in his power. Dying in the prime of life, he was lamented by a family to whom he devoted his best energies, and by numerous friends, with whom his social intercourse was always desirable and pleasant.

| | |
|---|---|
| Simon Wilkinson, | Charles Wells, |
| Joseph S. Read, | Turell Tuttle, |
| John Winship, | Cushing Nichols, |
| George W. Otis, | Frederick Lane, |
| John Rayner, | *Trustees.* |

A vigorous effort was made to collect arrearages. The secretary, at the first meeting of the government, October 26, reported the names of all the members whose unpaid assessments amounted to more than Six dollars. The demands against eleven members amounting to One hundred and ten dollars, were ordered to be erased.

At a subsequent meeting, the secretary reported that all the committees appointed to collect subscriptions for the proposed Hall had made returns, — that the whole number of shares subscribed for was Two hundred and twenty-four, ($11,200) — and that "it was the opinion of all the committees that no more money could be expected from the members of the association." The government then unanimously voted, "To recommend to the association that the whole subject subside for the present." This vote was confirmed at the next quarterly meeting.

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## APPENDIX TO 1825.

[From the New-England Galaxy, June 24, 1825.]

### DINNER TO LAFAYETTE.

The Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, gave a dinner to their friend, General Lafayette, on Monday last,* at the Marlboro' hotel. About two hundred of the members united in this testimonial of respect and affection. Beside the Guest, in honor of whom the dinner was provided, the association were favored with the presence of the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor of the Commonwealth; of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; Mr. Barbour, the Secretary of War; Col. McLane, of Delaware; Messrs. Lloyd and Webster, members of Congress; the Mayor of the city and the President of the common council; Dr. Mitchill, Dr. Perkins, and W. L. Stone, of New-York; and others. At four o'clock, General Lafayette and son, with his private secretary, were announced. On being introduced, the president of the association, Samuel Perkins, thus addressed him: —

* The corner-stone of the Bunker Hill Monument was laid on the Friday preceding this entertainment.

"GENERAL LAFAYETTE, — In behalf of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, and as their representative, I bid you welcome. I felicitate myself in being the organ of this communication, and consider it one of the happiest circumstances of my life, in having this opportunity of expressing, for the association and myself, our acknowledgements of your great sacrifices and interesting services in the revolutionary struggle. The importance of the sanction given by you to our institution is deeply felt, and convinced as we are of the intimate relation between freedom and the useful arts, affording free scope for laudable competition and enterprize, we cannot too strongly express our sense of that enthusiasm and zeal which has contributed so essentially to the establishment of our free institutions. The fervent prayer of each and all of us is, that you, who have achieved so much in this behalf, may long live to enjoy the contemplation of that happiness, resulting from the joint efforts of yourself and our fathers, and that on your return to your native land, you may enjoy in the bosom of your family that serenity and peace which you so largely contributed to secure for a nation."

To which General Lafayette made an appropriate reply. He was afterwards introduced to all the members of the association. After the cloth was removed from the table, the following toasts were drank.*

1. *Our Country.* To *us* the metropolis of the world; other countries, the suburbs. "Where liberty dwells, *there* is our country."

2. *Our revolutionary Mechanics.* Their *intelligence* was the *lever*, which upset the colonial government — their *bravery* the *screw*, which kept down the enemy — and their *honor* the *pulley*, which lifted their country to independence.

SONG, WRITTEN AND SUNG BY HENRY J. FINN.

Oh! bid young Science here, 'all hail'!
In the beauty of her spring,
O'er the peaceful sea. she folds her sail,
Heaven's dew drops from her wing.
Sing auld lang syne, my friends, for auld lang syne,
And we'll lift the cup to the man we love,
For days auld lang syne.

We 'll strike the harp, the garland wreathe
Round the veteran victor's brow,
While the waves shall beat, or the winds shall breathe,
Beneath the solar glow —
For auld lang syne, my friends, for auld lang syne,
And we 'll glorify and grace the brave,
For auld lang syne.

And Time shall never twin that friend
While the day rolls down the west;

* The regular toasts, by the request of the president, were all prepared, and announced at the table, by J. T. Buckingham.

For Heaven must many a hero blend
To form a Nation's Guest.
And days auld lang syne, my friends, for auld lang syne,
And God shall guide him o'er the sea,
For days auld lang syne.

To Freedom's Sons the goblet fill —
When she burst the serpent's thrall;
When her birth was on the Holy Hill,
And her cradle in the 'Hall.'
For auld lang syne, my friends, for auld lang syne,
For our father's blood baptized the babe,
In days auld lang syne.

The broad, the blue, eternal deep,
Shall moan in every wave;
And the everlasting skies shall weep,
O'er the gallant soldier's grave.
For days auld lang syne, my friends, for auld lang syne.
For the dust shall live of Freedom's dead,
In days auld lang syne.

The Pile in Monumental might,
Shall consecrate the Mound;
And the mould'ring bones of the bold in fight,
Shall guard the hallowed ground.
For days auld lang syne, my friends, for auld lang syne,
Time shall not touch the Sacred Tomb,
For auld lang syne.

The Morning Star of Martial Fame,
Which smiled upon the Sire —
Shall never shine on the hour of shame,
When we fly from the battle-fire.
O! the days auld lang syne, my friends, for auld lang syne,
*And the glory ne'er shall pass away*
From the days auld lang syne.

3. *George Washington* — the Sun of our political firmament. "At the sound of his name, all the company of stars hide themselves, and the constellations pass away without a sign."

4. *The Free Schools of New-England;* the nursery of FREE MEN.

[The president of the association, Samuel Perkins, Esq. then gave the following toast: —

"Our distinguished Guest, who has by his own example, expressed his contempt for the artificial distinctions of society, and sanctioned the principle that worth makes the man."

General Lafayette rose, and while he offered his affectionate thanks for the toast, and expressed himself happy in the opportunity given him to acknowledge once more the honor and pleasure of this meeting, he proposed the following sentiment: —

"*The Massachusetts Mechanic Society.* May the noble example of dignified patriotism and virtuous industry given to the world by the mechan-

ies of this city and state, be forever more and more illustrated by all the blessings of public and domestic prosperity and happiness."]

5. *The Constitution of the United States;* a production of consummate skill, directed by wisdom and foresight; framed for the security of an enlightened people. Let the intelligence and prudence of that people be its protection against foolish, unskillful or designing innovation.

6. *The President of the United States.* May he rule for those who gave him the power, and make it his glory to deserve the trust.

7. *The Governor of Massachusetts.* His residence is in "the heart of the commonwealth;" the interests of the commonwealth find a home in his heart.

[The Governor reciprocated this sentiment by offering the following:—"*That Art* in which all may be good mechanics, and in which this association much excel—the art of making themselves useful men and estimable citizens."]

8. *The Bunker Hill Monument.* Our fathers selected the *site;* we have laid the *foundation;* posterity shall complete the design, when they look upon it and remember with gratitude the days of old.

SONG, WRITTEN BY CHARLES SPRAGUE.

Wake a deed of other days;
Swell the song of lofty praise;
Gratitude's bright goblet raise,—
Pledge to LAFAYETTE!
Him, who left his own fair land,
By your Father's sides to stand,
When oppression's guilty brand
In their blood was wet.

Him, who shared their hour of woe;
Him, who dealt with them each blow,
Till young Freedom's beaten foe
Turned his back and fled.
Lo! again behold him here!—
He, who came the Sires to cheer,
Joins their sons the Pile to rear
O'er the mighty dead.

That gray Pile shall melt away,
Tomb and tablet shall decay,
Yet shall Glory's deed and day
Never set in night.
Where your martyred heroes sleep,
Children's children long shall weep,
There shall pilgrim warriors keep
Vigils, ever bright.

Sons of Art!—the table throng:—
Swell your glad and grateful song,
Let its echoes, loud and long,
Up to Heaven ascend!—

Never may your hearts forget
Freeman's duty — Freeman's debt —
Fill the cup to LAFAYETTE! —
Pledge your FATHER'S FRIEND!

9. *The Orator of Bunker Hill.*

Whose giant mind, intent on highest aim,
Deems Virtue's rugged path the path of Fame,
And, deaf to present praise, the servile knee
Rebukes — and says to glory — "Follow me!"

[Hon. Mr. Webster here offered the following sentiment: —
"*The Mechanics and Manufacturers of New-England* — Men who teach us how a little country is to be made a great one."]

10. *Agriculture, Arts, Commerce, Manufactures.* The four first rounds in the ladder of national prosperity.

11. *Bolivar, the Washington of the South,* — May his exertions be crowned with the success of his illustrious predecessor of the North.

12. *Public Opinion;* the unconquerable power which secures the enjoyment of religion, liberty, and law.

13. *La Grange* — and a safe return of 'the Farmer' to its hospitable precincts. He may meet the scowl of the courtier, but he will receive the welcome of the patriot. The *Oak* will be venerated though surrounded with *Ivy*.

SONG.

When darkness spread Columbia o'er
And lightning from the war-clouds fell;
Our Champion left his native shore,
And fought the fight of Freedom well;
And proud her patriot armies greet
The gallant, youthful LAFAYETTE.

Again he comes in happier hours,
His children's tears his steps attend, —
He treads his *more than native shores*,
Their patriot, soldier, father, friend;
And see united nations met
To hail again their LAFAYETTE.

And Infant accents lisp the name
Taught by Maternal gratefulness,
And Youth shall emulate his Fame,
And Age the friend of Manhood bless,
And Beauty's eye in rapture wet,
Beam on the gallant LAFAYETTE.

Oh! leave not then thy native shore,
Fair Freedom's birth-place should be thine;
'Mid willing slaves of tyrant power,
For thee no rays of joy can shine;
Here, may thy sun of glory set,
In peace and freedom, LAFAYETTE.

14. *The Army and the Navy.* Our Lightning *this*, and *that* our winged Thunder.

15. *Montgomery, Wooster, Mercer, Warren, Scammel.* "The Lord of Hosts was their leader, and his angels their fellow soldiers; to whom the field of death was a scaffold of martyrdom, and their funeral obsequies, resurrections to eternal honor and glory."

16. *The United States and the individual States.* What power can break a cable of twenty-four well twisted strands?

17. *Our political Mechanics in the nineteenth Congress.* Above all things, brethren, see that ye add to the union of your country, strength; to its strength, security; to security, freedom; to its freedom, peace.

18. *The Mechanic Arts, and their new ally, Steam.* Success to their enterprize, but let the mechanics keep an eye on the *safety valve*.

19. *Genius.* The product of every age and clime, the world its theatre, immortality its reward.

20. *The Press.* An instrument which despots must destroy, or it will destroy them.

Among many others, the annexed volunteer sentiments were given:—

By His Honor Marcus Morton, Lieutenant-Governor.

The *feelings* and *principles* of 1775; *revived* in the *old; inspired* in the *young* — may they ever be *cherished* by *all.*

By Hon. Josiah Quincy, mayor of the city.

The progress recently made by Virtue and Service through the dominions of a free people — more glorious than king or conqueror ever witnessed, — more despotic — since, every where the hearts of a free people followed, drawn by the triple cord of love, gratitude and admiration.

By Mr. Lloyd, United States Senator.

*France.* May she honor herself, by giving due honors, on his return, *to him*, who would confer honor on any age or country.

By Mr. Barbour, Secretary of War.

*The Mechanics of Boston. History* tells me they were the first to fight for the cause of Liberty; *I* say, they will be last to desert it.

By Mr. George W. Lafayette.

*The Harbor of Boston.* In the beginning of the American Revolution, it has been the theatre of a conspicuous act of resistance to oppression.

By Mr. Levasseur.

*The Battle of Bunker Hill.* A glorious Preface of the most glorious History of the American revolution.

By Dr. C. Perkins, of New-York.

*The Boston Mechanic, Benjamin Franklin.* In demonstration of the maxim that 'knowledge is power,' he ruled the artillery of heaven with a rod of iron.

By Mr. Stone, of New-York, editor of the Commercial Advertiser.

*The great Boston Tea-Pot.* Its contents a salutary *stimulant* to the friends of Freedom — a *narcotic* to its foes. The obelisk on Bunker-Hill will long point to a *healthy* draught to the one, and a *deadly* one to the other.

Webster.

*Memory of Col. Paul Revere* — a Boston mechanic, who wrought ly and cheerfully in the great work of Liberty.

entleman from New-York.

*n and its Citizens.* May the prosperity of the one, equal the enter- ıd hospitality of the other.

ıthan Hunewell, one of the past-presidents of the Association.

ıant gales and gentle waves, with days of joy and nights of ease, ng friends.

rles Sprague.

*Freedom of the Press.* The spirit of light, moving upon the face of ters.

President of the Association, after the Governor had retired.

*Excellency the Governor.* Young, ardent, and enterprizing, yet old rience and acquirements; the public weal will bear witness to common combination of useful qualities.*

heus Cary.

*nemory of the undaunted patriot, Josiah Quincy, Jr.*

——————— "he sought no gainful post,
Nor wished to glitter at his country's cost;
Strict on the right he fixed his steady eye,
With temperate zeal and wise anxiety;
Nor e'er from virtue's paths was lured aside,
To pluck the flowers of pleasure or of pride;
Her gifts despised, corruption blushed and fled,
And fame pursued him when conviction led."

rles Sprague.

ı *Quincy, the Son.* His deeds are enrolled in the capitol — and se will be long in the *Market-place.* †

ll be recollected that when General Lafayette entered the city in last, an arch was erected across Washington-street, near Roxbury, ıt on a label, suspended from its centre, appeared the following ıry lines, written by Charles Sprague: —

WELCOME, LAFAYETTE!

The FATHERS in glory shall sleep,
That gathered with THEE to the fight,
But the SONS will eternally keep
The tablet of gratitude bright.
Though we bow not the *neck*, though we bend not the *knee*,
Our HEARTS, LAFAYETTE, shall do honor to THEE.

ıe dinner, as the General was retiring from the table, Mr. T. offered these lines as a sentiment, which was drank as the

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Lincoln was, at that time, the youngest man, who had been elevated to the gistracy of Massachusetts.

ling to the new market, just then completed, by the agency of Mr. Quincy, ›r of the city.

*parting cup.* This simple tribute of feeling was the first, of the kind, which met the eye of Lafayette, as he entered the place, and the last that fell upon his ear as he was about to leave it, forever.

The following letter, handed to the committee, by T. B. Adams, Esq. was read, and the sentiment annexed, which was enclosed therein, was drank standing.

*To Messrs. Samuel Perkins, Joseph Jenkins, John Cotton, Daniel Messinger, and Benjamin Russell, Committee of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, Boston.*

GENTLEMEN, — Your polite invitation to partake of a public dinner with your respectable association, in company with General Lafayette, has been received by me with great pleasure, which would be greatly augmented if the state of my health would admit of my acceptance of it. But I must be content with wishing health and prosperity to the members of your charitable and laudable institution. Being, very respectfully, your humble servant, JOHN ADAMS.

*Quincy, June* 20, 1825.*

*The Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association!* 'T is theirs 'To teach an *Art*, beyond the rules of *Art*' — CHARITY.

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# 1826.

The committee appointed to revise the constitution, reported a number of alterations, the consideration of which was postponed, — the report was recommitted, — and two members (Gedney King and J. T. Buckingham) added to the committee. The same committee was instructed to "consider the expediency of celebrating the Fourth of July." The committee subsequently reported a few slight alterations in the constitution, and the whole subject was indefinitely postponed. The committee also reported that a celebration of the Fourth of July by the association was inexpedient, and the report was accepted.

The subject of a new hall, or a more convenient place for the meetings of the association and the accommodation of the library, was again referred to the government; and that body held a special meeting, January 9, 1826, to see what further could be done to accomplish this desired object. George W. Otis, Cushing Nichols, and Charles Wells were

* Mr. Adams died on the fourteenth day after the date of this letter.

appointed a committee to ascertain if a lot of land suitable for the purpose could be obtained, and to procure plans for an edifice that should not exceed an expense of Thirty thousand dollars. Several special meetings were held to hear reports from this committee, which, from time to time, reported progress, and asked for further time to pursue their object. At length the committee reported that "they had not come to any conclusion, and thought it best that the subject should take a new form." It was then voted, "That it be recommended to the association, at their next quarterly meeting, that they choose a committee, with full powers to select and purchase an eligible piece of ground, and to erect thereon a suitable building, or to purchase one already erected, for the use of the association." And also voted, "That it be recommended to the association to empower the government to borrow, on the credit of the association, a sum of money, not exceeding Forty thousand dollars, at a rate of interest not exceeding Six per cent. for the purpose of carrying the preceding vote into effect."

These acts of the government were ratified and confirmed by the association, (April 7,) and, in conformity with the first vote, a committee of nine members, to be styled "the building committee," was chosen. The following members were selected, by a nominating committee, to compose the building committee, viz: — Joseph Jenkins, Solomon Willard, Alexander Parris, George W. Otis, Charles Wells, John Cotton, Jonathan Whitney, Ephraim Marsh, and Stephen Fairbanks.

At the request of this committee, a special meeting of the government was held, (May 10,) when the committee reported that they wished for advice in regard to a certain lot of land, "the most eligible of any they had examined, and which they unanimously believed would be the most profitable and beneficial for the association to purchase." It was then voted, "That the government fully agree with the committee in the expediency of securing the purchase of the Dalton estate, and that, after the sub-committee have ascertained the practicability of borrowing a sum of money sufficient to warrant the engagement, the building committee make their plans

and submit the whole to the association at a special meeting."

The business being thus in the hands of a committee, no further action appears to have been had in relation to it, until the annual meeting in October, when the building committee presented the following report, viz: —

The committee appointed, April 7, to select and purchase an eligible piece of ground, and to erect thereon a suitable building, or to purchase one already erected, for the use of the association, deem it their duty to lay before the association a statement relative to their proceedings. They have not been unmindful of the importance of the trust committed to them, nor inattentive to the duties of their appointment. They have taken the dimensions, and made inquiry respecting different estates, which have been considered more or less suitable for the proposed building. They have ascertained the prices, at which several estates could be purchased, and have made some advances in reference to the plan and extent of the proposed building, and also some estimates of expenses. But as yet they have matured nothing, so far as to be enabled to present to the association any thing like a specific plan. The meetings of your committee were most frequent directly after their appointment. But, during their more frequent attention to the subject, it gradually became more and more the opinion of gentlemen, that to hurry its accomplishment would not be wise. At the time the committee was appointed, the price of real estate was unusually high. The bold and extensive projects and speculations of the day had scarcely begun to subside. A change, however, real or imaginary, soon began to take place. The remark became common, that real estate was declining; and whether there was any legitimate ground for such an opinion or not, the effect naturally was to render sales less frequent, and to furnish the probability, at least in the minds of your committee, that they should be able, by delay, to avail themselves of some advantage from this state of things; and they take the liberty to add, as their opinion, that no time since their appointment has been so favorable to the accomplishment of their object as the present, and they see no prospect of an immediate alteration for the worse. They believe, however, that should the subject be continued in the hands of a committee, the prospect is fair, that the wishes of the association in reference to a building may be favorably realized in the course of the coming year. Your committee have been made to understand from the government, who were charged with the subject, that there would be no difficulty in procuring sufficient funds, according to the vote of the association.

Respectfully submitted, by order of the committee.

JOSEPH JENKINS, *Chairman.*

The report was accepted, and the committee requested to continue their efforts to accomplish the object of their appointment.

While the subject of borrowing money to be expended in the erection of a hall was agitated, a question was raised, whether the members of the association were personally responsible for the debts of the association. The president, vice-president, and G. W. Otis were appointed a committee, to wait upon Judge Jackson, and obtain his opinion. The opinion of the Judge was obtained, in writing, as follows:—

June 1, 1826. The Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association being about to erect a building, which may involve them in debt, a question has arisen, whether the members of the association will be, individually, liable for any such debt.

The association having been incorporated solely for the relief of unfortunate mechanics, and to promote improvement in the arts, and to assist young mechanics with loans of money, it is clearly not within the laws relating to manufacturing which make the members liable for the debts of the corporation. I am not apprized of any other statute provision that can affect the question, and there is nothing in the act of incorporation itself to bind the members in the manner suggested. I am, therefore, of the opinion, that the members of the said association are not personally liable, as such, for any debts of the corporation, and that they are liable to pay only such sums as may be lawfully assessed upon them pursuant to their charter.

It will be understood, of course, that I speak of debts lawfully contracted on the part of the association, by persons duly authorized in their behalf. If any persons should undertake to contract for the association without sufficient authority, such persons might make themselves liable for debts so contracted; but, in that case, none of the other members would be bound, nor would the property of the association be liable for such debts. CHARLES JACKSON.

At a government meeting (February 22) the president laid before it the following correspondence: —

*To the President and Trustees of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association.*

GENTLEMEN, — Having received from Sir Isaac Coffin a letter, a copy of which I have the honor to inclose, and also a box containing several interesting publications, alluded to in that letter, and after considering their contents, I know not where those publications can be better placed to answer the view of the liberal donor, than in the library of the mechanic apprentices, under your superintendence. I have the honor, there-

fore, of transmitting the box with its contents to your care, to be deposited in that institution.

You, gentlemen, in common with all our citizens, will receive with respect this renewed instance of the lively interest taken by this distinguished native of our metropolis, in its prosperity and progressive improvement, as well as in the general agricultural advancement of the state, to which, in various ways, he has contributed with equal judgement and liberality.

I shall be happy in being the medium of communicating to Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin any expression of sentiment you may deem suitable on the occasion.

Respectfully, I am your humble servant, JOSIAH QUINCY.

*Boston, Jan.* 27, 1826.

The inclosure: —

*London*, 123 *Pall Mall, June* 21, 1825.

SIR, — Being desirous the rising generation in the chemical and mechanical line, my townsmen at Boston, should benefit by the diffusion of knowledge in this country, I herewith send you a few numbers relating to the above named sciences, and should they prove acceptable I will continue, as they are published, to forward them to your care.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your humble servant,

ISAAC COFFIN.

*The Mayor of Boston.*

The books were accepted, and the following acknowledgement was transmitted to the mayor: —

*To the* Hon. JOSIAH QUINCY, *Mayor of Boston.*

SIR, — At a meeting of the government of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, on Wednesday, February 22, 1826, the undersigned were appointed a committee to express to you, and through you to Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin, their grateful acknowledgements for the liberal donation of books, which, on his account, with characteristic benevolence, you have presented to the apprentices' library, under our superintendence. We trust, Sir, that the mechanics of Boston will not be the last to acknowledge and appreciate the liberal benefactions of this distinguished son of our metropolis; and, on their behalf, we would avail ourselves of this opportunity to demonstrate to him the high estimation in which we regard his character, and to express that gratitude and respect so justly due to his liberality and his person.

With sentiments of great consideration, we have the honor to be your obedient servants,

SAMUEL PERKINS,
JOSEPH JENKINS,
DAVID FRANCIS.

*Boston, February* 25, 1826.

The term for which the association had been incorporated being about to expire, a renewal of the charter was applied for and obtained, and with it some advantages not before granted. The new act, passed, and approved by the governor on the fifteenth of February, permitted the association to remain a corporation during the pleasure of the Legislature, with all the powers and privileges it then enjoyed, — to hold personal and real estate to the amount of One hundred thousand dollars, — and to establish schools and libraries for the use of apprentices and the improvement of the arts.

In May, the library committee, acting under instructions from the government, packed the books in boxes, to be so kept until the government should determine what further disposition should be made of them.

The following communication was received from the treasurer: —

*Boston, April* 12, 1826.

SAMUEL PERKINS, Esq. *President of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association.*

SIR, — I take this opportunity to inform you that I resign my office as treasurer of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association. I therefore request you, Sir, to inform the government at their next meeting, and appoint a committee to examine my accounts, and also that a warrant may be drawn on me for all the property in my hands belonging to the association. Your attention to the above will oblige your friend and obedient servant, JOSEPH LOVERING.

The government deferred acting on this communication, and submitted it to the association at its quarterly meeting in July. On taking a ballot, Mr. Lovering received every vote, and a vote was unanimously passed, requesting him to continue to act as treasurer.

Twenty-eight candidates were admitted to membership, as follows: —

Eldad Brown, Housewright.
Amasa G. Smith, Housewright.
Samuel Smallidge, Housewright.
William F. Hills, Bricklayer.
Peleg Mann, Bricklayer.
Slade Luther, Bricklayer.
Thomas Haviland, Plasterer.
Joel Prouty, Painter.
John Templeton, Stone-cutter.
John Mackay, Organ-builder.
William R. Kelly, Tailor.
Oliver Hudson, Tailor.
John Wilson, Tailor.
Thomas B. Wait, Printer.

John Tuttle, Blacksmith.
Eber Parker, Blacksmith.
Lawrence Richards, Blacksmith.
Gennaro Del Noce, Saddler.
Harrison Gray, Bookbinder.
Thomas Bruce, Slater.
John Glover, Ship-joiner.
Horace Fox, Stone-cutter.
John Sowden, Brewer.
Samuel H. Huneman, Coppersmith.
John M. Robinson, Ship-builder.
Francis Merrifield, Baker.
Daniel Colby, Housewright.
Samuel S. Reynolds, Charlestown, Housewright.

Ten members deceased, viz: — Moses Eayres, John Roulstone, John Tuckerman, Benjamin Howland, John R. Gould, Ezekiel Jones, Caleb Faxon, Lendall Pitts, and Thomas Dean. The names of three members were expunged for delinquency.

The annual report of the committee of finance (October 5) represented the property of the association to consist of

| | |
|---|---|
| Stock in Manufacturers' and Mechanics' Bank, | $2,500 00 |
| " Globe Bank, | 7,500 00 |
| Columbian Bank note, | 1,500 00 |
| Cash on hand, | 399 77 |
| Balance due from members, | 712 95 |
| Balance due from secretary on account of an error in the calculation of the committee, | 11 44 |
| | $12,624 16 |

Twelve thousand six hundred and twenty-four dollars and sixteen cents. Besides, plate for certificates, stoves, tables, chairs, &c.

The Library Fund: —

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Balance of old account, | $40 79 | |
| Legacy of Thomas Eaton, | 200 00 | —$240 79 |
| Paid sundry bills, | $68 92½ | |
| Balance on hand, | 171 86½ | —$240 79 |

When the hour arrived for the choice of officers, the president declined a re-election, and Mr. Francis, having served ten years as secretary, declined another election to that office. The votes being taken for a secretary, Charles C. Nichols was elected. The association then proceeded to ballot for a president. Two separate ballotings resulted in no choice. On a third ballot, the whole number being seventy-six, Charles Wells had forty-two, and was elected. Neither the secretary nor the president elect being present, committees were appointed to give them notice of their election. In the midst

of an uncommon excitement, the meeting adjourned to the tenth of the month.

At the adjourned meeting, the secretary and president elect appeared and entered upon the duties of their respective offices. The elections were then completed, and the government for the succeeding year was organized, as follows: —

| | |
|---|---|
| Charles Wells, *President.* | John Cotton, *Treasurer.* |
| David Francis, *Vice-President.* | Charles C. Nichols, *Secretary.* |
| George W. Otis, | Ezra Dyer, |
| John Rayner, | Seth Thaxter, |
| Turell Tuttle, jun. | John Wells, |
| Cushing Nichols, | Joseph T. Buckingham, |
| Frederick Lane, | *Trustees.* |

The committee of relief was ordered to consist of ten members, viz: —

| | |
|---|---|
| George W. Otis, | Isaac Harris, |
| Daniel Messinger, | Ephraim Marsh, |
| Oliver Johonnot, | Benjamin Clark, |
| Zephaniah Sampson, | Simon Wilkinson, |
| George Dommett, | Alpheus Carey. |

Three hundred dollars was placed at the disposal of the committee.

According to unvaried usage, votes of thanks were ordered to the retiring officers. To Mr. Lovering, who had served eighteen years as treasurer, was voted a piece of plate, of not less than Fifty dollars in value. The government appointed John Cotton, Joseph T. Buckingham, and George W. Otis, a committee to carry the vote into effect.

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## 1827.

The committee appointed to procure a piece of plate, to be presented to Joseph Lovering, as a testimony of regard for his services as treasurer, performed the duty assigned to them, and, at the quarterly meeting in January, it was exhibited to the association. It was a silver pitcher, and bore the following inscription: —

Presented by the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, to Joseph Lovering, Esq. as a testimony of their affectionate regard for him as an associate, and of their gratitude for his services as treasurer, for the term of eighteen years.

Mr. Lovering being present, Mr. Wells, the president, thus addressed him: —

Respected Sir, — By a vote of this institution, its government were constituted a committee to purchase a piece of plate, to cause a suitable device to be engraved thereon, and present it to Joseph Lovering, Esq. their past treasurer; not presuming that its intrinsic value would be a compensation for the valuable services you have rendered to this association, but as a testimony of their high respect, and as an expression of their gratitude, for the very able, prompt, and efficient manner, in which you have discharged the duties of that important office for the last eighteen years.

The committee, Sir, have thus far performed the duties assigned them. They have purchased a well-wrought and highly-polished silver vessel, which is here exhibited, and may be considered as a fair specimen of the perfection, to which the mechanics of our country have arrived in the arts. On it are delineated many useful implements, well known and well understood by the members of this association, — for they are peculiar to their several vocations. On it are also represented the scales of justice and the bee-hive: — The bee-hive is an emblem of industry, and recommends the practice of that virtue to all created beings; and justice is that standard, or boundary of right, which enables us to render to every man his just due, without distinction. And, how truly characteristic are these emblems of the man whose name it bears. On it is also inscribed the name of Joseph Lovering, because the original record is engraved in more indelible characters on the hearts of the members of this association. Under your fostering care our funds have been increased to their present respectable state, and by your watchful eye they have ever been guarded, and by your fidelity this institution is enabled to fulfill the design of its founders. In the discharge of your official duties, in visiting the afflicted and bereft widows of our departed members, you have not only relieved their temporal wants, but your kind and soothing language to the hearts just lacerated by the hand of death, has proved a source of consolation to them, that will ever be remembered with sentiments of the most profound respect. In the name of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, I present to you this piece of plate; and may the remainder of your life be as happy as your former has been useful to this association and exemplary in the world.

To which Mr. Lovering replied: —

Mr. President and Brethren, — I want words to express my grateful sense for this valuable tribute, and kind expression of your affectionate

regards and esteem. I beg you to accept of my gratitude and thanks for this unexpected token of your approbation for the services I have rendered in that honorable and responsible department, to which by your suffrages, in a succession of years, I have been called to officiate, and which I shall esteem as the happiest portion of my life — with my best wishes for the happiness and prosperity of the association.

The sum of Fifty dollars having been voted to Mr. Francis for his services as secretary for the past year, it was also voted that it should be presented to him in a piece of plate, with such device and inscription as the committee should deem proper.

A desire that the association should have a hall, or building for its accommodation, was manifested at every meeting. The president, vice-president, and treasurer were appointed a committee to devise "ways and means" to carry into effect this desirable object. Afterward, on motion of the treasurer, the committee was enlarged, and J. T. Buckingham and C. C. Nichols were added.

The apprentices' library, which had always been a source of more expense and vexation than profit, was the subject of much debate in the government, and of consultation with the apprentices of the members. The government held it as the property of the association, and for the use of the members as well as their apprentices. To relieve themselves of much of the trouble connected with its management, the government voted, (June 13,) "That the books be delivered into the care of such *apprentices of members of the association*, not under eighteen years of age, as shall produce a certificate or recommendation from their masters to that effect, — which apprentices so recommended, may form themselves into a society; choose their officers for managing the affairs of the library, and make by-laws for the regulation of them, as they may deem proper; — first submitting their proceedings to the government of the association for its approbation." And also "That all expenses arising in consequence of the preceding resolve be defrayed from the library fund, till the further order of the government."

At the close of the year, the treasurer had a balance in his

hands, on account of the library fund, of Ninety-nine dollars and forty-three cents. Edmund Wright, jun. presented to the committee on the library, a due-bill of Messrs. Wells & Lilly, Booksellers, payable in books, amounting to Forty-one dollars and eighty-eight cents.

Another question, which produced some excitement among the members, arose from a *novel* construction of that article of the constitution which provides for "apprentices' certificates." It had been the uniform practice to award such certificates, only to those who had been apprentices to members of the association. Applications had been made in behalf of others and been rejected by the government. In a meeting of the association, the practice of confining the benefits of the certificate to the apprentices of members was made a subject of some rather angry remarks, and the practice was condemned as narrow-minded, impolitic, and unjust. The matter was referred to the government, which, after much deliberation, decided that certificates of approbation could be granted to none but the apprentices of members. This decision was not heartily approved, the report was recommitted, and five members from the association at large were added to the committee. This enlarged committee, on which were some of the oldest and most influential individuals, reported, (August 2,) "That in their opinion, no certificate of approbation to apprentices should be given, except to such as have served their apprenticeship with a member of the association." There was but one of the committee who dissented from the report. That one called for the yeas and nays on the question of its acceptance, — which were ordered; and the report was accepted — yeas thirty, nays seventeen.

The seventh triennial festival came in order, and the usual committee of arrangements was appointed, — held the usual number of meetings, — and fulfilled their instructions to the acceptance of the association.

At the annual meeting, October 4, the committee of finance made an elaborate report on the state of the finances, from which it appeared that, after deducting all payments for expenses there remained in the treasury an

available fund of Thirteen thousand three hundred and ninety-three dollars.

The committee of relief distributed Three hundred dollars in charitable donations.

A donation of Fifty dollars was made to the fund, by Mr. Lovering, the late treasurer.

The association being about to elect their officers for the ensuing year, the president, Mr. Wells, and the vice-president, Mr. Francis, declined a re-election. Mr. Nichols also declined a re-election as secretary. The government was organized as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Samuel T. Armstrong, *President.* | John Cotton, *Treasurer.* |
| George W. Otis,* *Vice-President.* | Joseph Lewis, *Secretary.* |
| Cushing Nichols, | Alpheus Carey, |
| Frederic Lane, | Abraham Call, |
| Seth Thaxter, | Jacob Todd, |
| Ezra Dyer, | Benjamin Loring, |
| Joseph T. Buckingham, | *Trustees.* |

The seventh triennial festival was celebrated on the fourth of October. All the customary arrangements had been made by a committee consisting of the government and twelve other members. A numerous company of guests, chiefly official characters, as usual, attended the celebration. The procession moved from the Exchange Coffee-House, conducted by Col. James Hamilton, as chief marshal, to the meeting-house in Purchase-street, where the following services were performed, viz:— Voluntary, by a choir; prayer by the Rev. George Ripley; original hymn,† written by the Rev. John

* On the first ballot for a vice-president, Isaac Harris was chosen, unanimously, but declined taking the office.

† ORIGINAL HYMN.

Loud o'er thy savage child,
O God, the night wind roars,
As, houseless, in the wild
He bows him and adores,
Thou seest him there, He lifts his eye
As to the sky Alone in prayer.

Thine inspiration comes!
In *skill* the blessing falls!

Pierpont: address by William Hilliard: hymn, and anthem by the choir: benediction.

After the benediction, the usual votes of thanks were passed, and an order requesting a copy of Mr. Hilliard's address for publication.

These services were succeeded by a dinner at Faneuil Hall, at which about three hundred persons were seated. Among the guests of the occasion was the President of the United States, JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, who made an eloquent speech,—the theme of which was the importance of the mechanic arts to the progress of refinement in society, and the services which certain mechanics had rendered to the country in the revolutionary war, and the organization of the government. Original songs, by Frederic S. Hill, William Crosby, Henry J. Finn, and Rufus Dawes, together with the usual number

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The field around him blooms,
The temple rears its walls.
And saints adore, Where savage yells
And music swells, Were heard before.

To honor thee, dread Power,
Our SKILL and STRENGTH combine;
And temple, tomb, and tower
Attest these gifts of thine;
A swelling dome For Peace they build
For Pride they gild; An humbler home.

By these our fathers' host
Was led to victory first,
When on our guardless coast
The cloud of battle burst.
Through storm and spray, Our navies hold
By these controlled, Their thundering way.

Great Source of every art!
Our homes, our pictured halls,
Our thronged and busy mart
That heaves its granite walls,
And shoots to heaven To catch the fires
Its glittering spires Of morn and even,—

These, and the breathing forms
The brush or chisel gives,
With *this*, when marble warms,
With *that*, when canvass lives,—
These all combine, To swell thy praise;—
In countless ways, For all are thine!

of speeches and toasts, made an essential feature in the entertainment.

At the government meeting, December 6, the president, vice-president, and Alpheus Carey were appointed a committee to consider the expediency of establishing an evening school for apprentices at the expense of the association.

Six members, viz: — Joseph Nash, Seth Lathrop, Joseph Hastings, Solomon Cotton, (son of John Cotton,) Benjamin Owen, and William Lemon, died during the year. Three persons withdrew their membership, and fifty candidates were admitted, viz: —

Isaac R. Butts, Printer.
William Beals, Printer.
James L. Homer, Printer.
Osmyn Brewster, Printer.
Theophilus R. Marvin, Printer.
Thomas Edmands, Printer.
Eliab W. Metcalf, Cambridge, Printer.
James Bowen, Slater.
Harris H. Walcutt, Housewright.
Ebenezer Francis, jun. Housewright.
Josiah Waterman, Housewright.
Charles T. Otis, Housewright.
Thomas Rundell, Housewright.
Hiram Bosworth, Housewright.
William Eaton, Housewright.
William Hay, Housewright.
Peter Stevenson, Tailor.
John Ellms, Tailor.
William Barnicoat, Ship-joiner.
George Hallett, Manufacturer.
John H. Wheeler, Carpenter.
James Gouch, Carpenter.
Milton Hall, Carpenter.
Joseph P. Bradlee, Tin-manufacturer.
William Lombard, Tin--manufacturer.
William Badger, Ship-smith.
Roland Cushing, House-and-Ship-joiner.
John Redman, Bricklayer.
Samuel E. Gardner, Bricklayer.
Asa Swallow, Bricklayer.
David Copeland, Bricklayer.
William A. Dow, Cooper.
Zedekiah Sawyer.
John Parks, Painter.
James S. Savage, Mason.
Wyatt Richards, Mason.
Caleb Metcalf, Mason.
Gardner Greenleaf, Mason.
Levi Cook, Mason.
Joseph Richards, Stone-cutter.
Charles Harlow, Stone-cutter.
John Gair, Sailmaker.
Thomas J. Shelton, Pump and Block-maker.
Ezekiel Bates, Carpenter.
Benjamin Stevens, Distiller.
John Ashton, Umbrella-manufacturer.
George W. Edmands, Hatter.
William Barry, Hatter.
Aaron Breed, Mathematical-Instrument-maker.
Timothy Bedlington, Bookbinder.

Benjamin Dearborn, Esq. Hon. Josiah Quincy, His Excellency Levi Lincoln, His Honor Thomas L. Winthrop, Hon. Harrison G. Otis, and Charles Sprague, Esq. were admitted as honorary members.

# 1828.

Quarterly meeting, January 3. S. Fairbanks, B. Russell, C. Wells, D. Messinger, G. Fairbanks, and D. Francis were appointed "a committee to consider the expediency of establishing a course of philosophical and mechanical lectures at the expense of the association. The committee, at an adjourned meeting, January 17, reported, by their chairman, Mr. Fairbanks, that it was expedient to have the lectures. The committee say, they "forbear to offer the reasons which have induced them to come to this conclusion, believing their utility will be so self-evident to the minds of the intelligent members, as to render argument entirely unnecessary." The report concluded with a resolution, that One hundred and seventy-five dollars be appropriated to defray the expense of twelve scientific lectures, in the following order:—Two on Matter; three on Mechanics; two on Pneumatics; one on Hydrostatics; one on Electricity; three on Astronomy.

The report was unanimously accepted, and the lectures, corresponding to the programme, were delivered, weekly, on Tuesday evenings, by the Rev. James Sabine. The first lecture was delivered, January 22, 1828. Each member was entitled to two tickets of admission, one of which was transferable. Many members, who found it inconvenient to attend, were also allowed to transfer their tickets *once*. The institution of these lectures attracted many new members, and the association usually held an adjourned meeting immediately after the delivery of each lecture, for the purpose of admitting candidates.

By invitation from William H. Eliot, in behalf of certain gentlemen, who had associated for the purpose of erecting a hotel, the association assembled at ten o'clock, A. M. on the Fourth of July, and the president, Samuel T. Armstrong, laid, in their presence, the corner-stone of the "Tremont House. After the usual ceremonies of similar occasions, the members of the government, with many others, partook of a collation, provided by the proprietors of the proposed hotel, at the saloon of the Tremont Theatre.

Several propositions for alterations in the constitution were offered, some of which were recommended by committees; but none appear to have been adopted except one, which changed the time of the annual meeting for the choice of officers and settlement of the financial concerns from October to January; — a change which was proper and almost necessary, when the triennial festival and the annual settlement of financial affairs, choice of officers, &c. happened in the same year. In consequence of this change, it had been voted that all the officers and standing committees, chosen at the annual meeting in October, 1827, should hold their respective offices, and exercise their several functions, until the first Thursday in January, 1829.

A committee, to whom the subject of lectures and schools had been referred, reported in October, by their chairman, Gerry Fairbanks, the following resolutions, viz: —

1. Resolved, That a committee be chosen with authority to engage some suitable person or persons, to deliver a course of lectures, on subjects connected with the mechanic arts, or natural philosophy, and that ——— dollars be appropriated to defray the expenses of said lectures.

2. That said committee be requested to call on such members of the association as they may deem expedient, and request them to deliver lectures on some subjects connected with the arts and sciences, or other subjects interesting to the association.

3. That a committee be chosen to engage some suitable person or persons, to teach a school, or schools, for the instruction of the apprentices of members, and that ——— dollars be appropriated for this purpose.

These resolutions were all accepted. The blank in the first was filled with *Two hundred*, and the president, Gerry Fairbanks, J. T. Buckingham, Charles Wells, and Francis Jackson, were appointed a committee to carry both that and the second resolution into effect. The blank in the third resolution was also filled with *Two hundred*, and the vice-president, Frederic Lane, George Darracott, Zephaniah Sampson, and Alpheus Carey, constituted a committee to execute the intentions of the Association. The first lecture of the course was delivered on the eighth of December, at the hall of the Boston Atheneum, by Dr. Martin Gay, on chemistry. Dr. Gay also delivered four other lectures on the same subject. The

government usually had a session immediately preceding the lecture, and the association held a meeting after each lecture, for the purpose of balloting for candidates.

During the fifteen months embraced in this record, fifty-nine members were added to the association; the names of twenty-one, who had forfeited their membership, were erased from the books; and four deceased, viz. Joab Hunt, N. S. Bell, Isaac Smith, and Benjamin Callender. Mr. Callender was one of the original members, a worthy and respectable man, and exemplary in all the concerns of life. The Forty dollars, paid to his family at his death, was returned as a donation to the fund.

Nathaniel Bowditch, LL. D. was admitted an honorary member.

A commodious room was obtained for the library, and the care of it committed to a number of young men, (apprentices) who formed an association for that purpose.

Members admitted: —

Lewis Carey, Silver-smith.
Joseph F. Dow, Housewright.
Newell Harding, Silver-smith.
Stephen Lynch, Upholsterer.
Samuel Waldron, Housewright.
William Crehore, Housewright.
C. K. Lyford, Housewright.
George Howland, Housewright.
Christopher Foster, Housewright.
Robert White, Housewright.
Solomon Howe, Housewright.
Nathaniel Homes, Housewright.
Benjamin Chandler, Housewright.
Samuel Stickney, Housewright.
Micah Cutter, Housewright.
Aaron Wallis, Housewright.
Melzar Dunbar, Housewright.
William Goddard, Housewright.
Hiram Harris, Housewright.
Charles Leighton, Housewright.
John B. Smith, Housewright.
Loring Newcomb, Housewright.
Benjamin Bosworth, Housewright.
Otis Morton, Housewright.
Seth Simmons, Housewright.
Loring W. Goss, Housewright.
Ira Crawford, Housewright.
Edward Jones, Sailmaker.
John Snelling, Shipwright.
William Dilloway, Shipwright.
Daniel Bullard, Shipwright.
Joshua Mott, Shipwright.
James Clark, Pump and Block-maker.
Joseph Hill, Cordwainer.
Abel Bowen, Engraver.
Benjamin Yeaton, Chaise-maker.
William Frost, Chaise-maker.
Dwight Prouty, Painter.
Francis H. P. Homer, Painter.
George Yendall, Painter.
Samuel Aspinwall, Mast-maker.
William S. Pendleton, Lithographer.
Joseph Mann, Boat-builder.
Almoran Homes, Rigger.
Ward Litchfield, Mason.
Edward H. Robbins, Manufacturer.
Enoch Hobart, Tailor.

Amasa Murdock, Plane-maker.
Joseph Tilden, Bricklayer.
Joseph Pratt, Bricklayer.
James Page, Bricklayer.
Calvin Page, Bricklayer.
Amos B. Parker, Bookbinder.
John Mead, Bookbinder.
Simon G. Shipley, Baker.
Willard Fisher, Hatter.
Josiah Robbins, Plymouth, Rope-maker.
Joseph Cheney, Harness-maker.
Horatio N. Williams, Printer.

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# 1829.

Under the new arrangement, the annual meeting for the choice of officers, was held on the first Thursday of January, and the first business, in order, was the presentation of the annual report of the committee of finance. This report embraced a period of fifteen months. The whole amount received by the treasurer for the general fund, was *Three thousand two hundred and eighty-four dollars and seventy cents*; of which *Twelve hundred and forty-two dollars and fifteen cents* were collected by the secretary in quarterly assessments: — the whole available property of the association consisting of *Fourteen thousand four hundred and forty-eight dollars and ninety-nine cents.* The library, after all its incidental expenses were paid, was credited with a balance, in the hands of the treasurer, of *Forty-three dollars and seventy-four cents.* Of the eighty-three persons who had been admitted members in 1828, twenty-two had not then signed the constitution. The whole number of acting members was then three hundred and seventy-nine.

The officers then chosen for the year were: —

Samuel T. Armstrong, *President.*
George W. Otis, *Vice-President.*
Seth Thaxter,
Ezra Dyer,
Joseph T. Buckingham,
Abraham Call,
Jacob Todd,
John Cotton, *Treasurer.*
Joseph Lewis, *Secretary.*
Benjamin Loring,
James McAllaster,
Edward D. Clark,
John Kuhn,
*Trustees.*

Nine members were placed on the committee of relief, — the vice-president, as usual, being the chairman.

The meeting was continued by adjournment, from week to week, and was called to order after the delivery of each successive course, for the transaction of incidental business, chiefly the admission of candidates.

William Jackson, one of the members, delivered an interesting course on railroads, January 12, which was afterwards repeated by particular request.* The other gentlemen, who lectured during the course, were Dr. Martin Gay, Dr. Gamaliel Bradford, Dr. J. Loomis, George Burnett, Rev. John Pierpont, and Ebenezer Bailey. Two hundred dollars had been appropriated to pay the expense of these lectures;—a balance of Twenty-two dollars remained in the hands of the committee at the close of the course. A further appropriation of Two hundred dollars was voted, and the committee were instructed to institute another course, to begin early in October.

At the quarterly meeting in October, William H. Eliot was admitted an honorary member, was introduced to the meeting, and acknowledged his gratification in a few appropriate remarks.

The school committee reported a statement of their proceedings. At the opening of the school about one hundred apprentices entered their names, most of whom attended regularly through the season. The committee regretted that so few availed themselves of the advantages thus gratuitously presented, and expressed their belief that the continuance of "the school under the patronage of the association was capable of affording a great benefit to those who would devote themselves to it with assiduity." Two hundred and fifty dollars were placed at the disposal of a new committee, consisting of Messrs. Charles Wells, Enoch Hobart, Joseph S. Read, Harrison Gray, and John Roberts, for the purpose of continuing the school.

The committee on lectures, in accordance with the vote of the association, made arrangements for the course to begin

* All the members of the Legislature, which was then in session, and the members of the city government, were invited to attend the second delivery of Mr. Jackson's lecture, and many of them *did* attend. Railroads had not then become popular in the commonwealth, and much labor was required to gain the public attention.

on the twelfth of October. On that evening an introductory lecture was delivered by Joseph T. Buckingham. Hon. Edward Everett delivered three lectures on architecture, Dr. William Gregg three on pneumatics, Dr. C. Robbins two on the anatomy of the internal organs and the formation of the blood.

The report of the committee of finance states that there were six deaths of members during the year; but no names are mentioned in the report, nor is it stated what amount was paid to the families of the deceased. The record of the government meeting, October 14, states that warrants were drawn on the treasurer in favor of the families of Laban Smith and John Molineux.*

Fifty-three candidates were admitted, — most of them at the commencement of the course of lectures: —

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|---|---|
| William McClenning, Rigger. | Levi Whitcomb, Housewright. |
| Conrad C. Carleton, Stone-cutter. | Libbeus Bonney, Housewright. |
| Solomon Washburn, Housewright. | John Greenleaf, Housewright. |
| Job Taber, Housewright. | Samuel Hurd, Housewright. |

* Gerry Fairbanks died November 14, 1829. He was born in Dedham, January 9, 1782. His father was a carpenter. He served an apprenticeship with Zabdiel Adams, a hatter of Roxbury. By his death, in the vigor of manhood, society was deprived of an active and useful member, the circle of private friends of a respected and faithful companion, and a family of an affectionate husband, parent and brother. For more than twenty years he was an efficient and valued member of the association, in which he served the customary term of a trustee, and had frequently been requested to take a higher office, but declined an election. He was always ready to perform the duties assigned to him by his associates, and took great delight in devising schemes to promote the honor and usefulness of the institution, and in executing the expressed or implied obligations, which were often imposed upon him, when elected to act on various important committees. To his perseverance it was in a good degree owing that the association instituted the earliest courses of scientific lectures, and adopted other modes of intellectual improvement for its members and for the apprentices of mechanics. By the native vigor of his mind he was enabled to overcome many of the disadvantages of fortune, and to maintain himself in a position much more honorable than that of many who enjoy the privileges of a liberal education. In the common intercourse of life his manners were those of a gentleman, and he had claims to popular favor which entitled him to expect distinction. He was highly respected as an officer in the militia, and he rose rapidly from the ranks through all inferior offices to the office oi colonel. In politics, when party spirit was violent and vindictive, though active and influential in the party to which he belonged, he never suffered his political prejudices or partialities to interfere with those relations or that deportment which characterize a friend and a gentleman. In all domestic relations he was an example of fidelity and affection; in all his business transactions, of fairness and integrity.

James Dudley, Housewright.
William Keith, Housewright.
Charles Hersey, Housewright.
Richard Bond, Housewright,
Luke Brown, Housewright.
Jared Lincoln, Housewright.
Freedom Whitman, Housewright.
George Marsh, Housewright.
Theodore Washburn, Housewright.
Loyal Lovejoy, Housewright.
Thomas Mair, Housewright.
Charles C. Starbuck, Iron-founder.
James Blake, Tallow-chandler.
Henry G. Stetson, Baker.
John Roberts, Bookbinder.
James Dorety, Hairdresser.
Eben K. Little, Cooper.
Peleg Churchill, Cooper.
Martin Wilder, Blacksmith.
Nicholas Little, Blacksmith.
Samuel Holbrook, Shipwright.
William Easterbrooks, Cordwainer.
William B. Swift, Comb-maker.
Isaiah Rogers, Architect.
Charles Forster, Cabinet-maker.
Jonas Chickering, Piano-forte-maker.
Joel Wheeler, Bricklayer.
Francis B. Winter, Bricklayer.
Thomas Austin, Bricklayer.
Joseph L. Bates, Umbrella-manufacturer.
Matthew Binney, Umbrella-manufacturer.
William Snow, Painter.
William Homes, Painter.
Isaac Dupee, Painter.
Enoch H. Snelling, Glazier.
John T. Dingley, Hatter.
Samuel Prince, Sailmaker.
Samuel M. Russell, Pump-maker.
Henry Willis, Type-founder.
John H. Eastburn, Printer.
David Woodman, Baker.
Samuel Newmarch, Baker.
John Sawin, Clock and Watch-maker.
David Tilson, Slater.
Alanson Rice, Bricklayer.

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# 1830.

The annual meeting took place January 7, and the first business appears to have been the action upon the report of the committee of finance. The amount of income, from the usual sources, with the cash on hand at the commencement of the year 1829, was $3,259 78; and the expenditure during the year was $2,353 52; leaving a balance in the hands of the treasurer of $906 26. The entire property (exclusive of furniture) was *Fifteen thousand and ninety-two dollars and sixteen cents.* The report says: — "The income for the ensuing year may be estimated to be about $1,500. The expenses and payments will probably be about $1,200, exclusive of such as may appertain to the triennial festival, which will be celebrated in October next."

Messrs. Edward Everett, William Sullivan, and William Sturgis were admitted honorary members.

For some reason, not very apparent, the choice of officers was not attended with the accustomed unanimity. Daniel Messinger was elected president by a small majority, — Mr. Armstrong having declined a re-election. Mr. Otis was re-elected by nearly all the votes, and, being present, declined serving. On a second ballot no person had a majority. On a third ballot, Joseph T. Buckingham was chosen by a majority of about twenty votes. A committee was sent to inform him of the election, who reported that he declined the office. A fourth ballot was taken, and resulted in the choice of Ezra Dyer. Mr. Dyer was not at the meeting. The members were constantly withdrawing, and the number of votes given for secretary and treasurer was less than half the number thrown for a president. Mr. Lewis, the secretary of the preceding year, had forty-eight votes, and was unanimously re-elected. Mr. Cotton also had all the votes (fifty-two) for treasurer. The votes for trustees were forty-three in number. After the election of trustees, the usual votes of thanks to retiring officers, and the appointment of a committee of relief, the meeting was adjourned to the eleventh day of the month.

At the adjourned meeting, the committee that had been appointed to inform Mr. Dyer of his election as vice-president, reported that Mr. Dyer declined the office. William Jackson was then chosen vice-president, and, being present, declined. The further balloting was postponed to the eighteenth, when Joseph T. Buckingham was again elected, and, that the proper organization of the government might be no longer delayed, accepted the office. The new government then consisted of the following members, viz: —

Daniel Messinger, *President.* John Cotton, *Treasurer.*
Joseph T. Buckingham, *Vice-President.* Joseph Lewis, *Secretary.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Abraham Call, | Uriel Crocker, |
| Jacob Todd, | Thomas Whitmarsh, |
| James McAllaster, | Martin Bates, |
| John Kuhn, | Samuel S. Williams, |
| Edward D. Clark, | *Trustees.* |

A second attempt was made this year by Stephen Fairbanks, to break up the custom of having refreshments at the meetings of the government and the committee of relief. A resolution to that effect was offered at the annual meeting, was partially discussed, and referred to Messrs. S. Fairbanks, Benjamin Russell, and William Jackson, to report at a future meeting. The committee offered a report, in due time, which, after debate, was re-committed, and Edward D. Clark, Harrison Gray, Joseph T. Buckingham, Henry Purkitt, James Phillips, and George Darracott were added to the committee. At the quarterly meeting, April 1, Mr. Fairbanks submitted the following report: —

The committee, to whom was referred certain resolutions upon the subject of the entertainments given by the government and the committee of relief, at their business meetings, have had the subject under their consideration, and beg leave to report: —

That the object of the original mover in this matter was to effect a reform of a custom prevailing in the government and the committee of relief, long and generally admitted as a serious evil. The committee are fully aware of the magnitude of this evil, and while they decline recommending to the government and the committee of relief to omit offering refreshments of any kind, they believe the good sense of the gentlemen, who shall continue to fill these offices from time to time, will dictate to them the importance of a change in this particular. The example of the government may always be expected to have a direct and leading influence upon the association generally, and the welfare and prosperity of the young members will be essentially promoted by a conformity with the strictest rules of economy.

The public sentiment, in relation to luxurious and costly entertainments, as well as the frequent use of ardent spirits, has recently undergone an entire change. This change, your committee believe, is of vital importance to the future happiness of a large part of our population; and they think they do not arrogate too much by saying that no association can exert a more extensive and beneficial influence than the one they now address; and they therefore feel themselves authorized to hope that, in future, the respective entertainments of both branches of the government will be in accordance with that spirit of economy, on which alone mechanics can found a reasonable expectation of attaining that influence, respectability, and independence, at which a laudable ambition may justly and properly aim.

The committee were instructed to inquire whether any of the customary observances of the association might be dispensed with, or any general regulations might be adopted, which should tend to the saving of expense

to the association, and to the promotion of economy among its members. In pursuance of this instruction the committee have no hesitation in recommending such an alteration of the constitution as shall relieve all such members as do not choose to join in that part of the celebration of the triennial festival which consists of a public dinner, from the operation of that instrument, or so much of it as provides that the expenses of the festival shall be defrayed by an assessment on all the members. The operation of this provision of the constitution has been considered as onerous and unjust; and it has not been, unfrequently, the case, that the payment of this assessment has been resisted by those who did not partake of the dinner, and some have taken up their connection with the association in consequence. [The committee then propose an alteration, providing that the expenses of the dinner shall be paid by the subscriptions of those who voluntarily partake of it; and that all other expenses shall be paid from the commond fund.]

It must be manifest to every member that a very considerable item in the ordinary expense of the triennial festival has been occasioned by the employment of a band of military music, — not merely to enliven the festivities of the table, but to accompany marshals [having charge of the standard] from the place of meeting to the president's house and back, and to precede the procession of members from the place of meeting to the place of public worship, and thence to the festive hall. The committee believe it would be more in unison with the character of an avowedly charitable institution, and which has assumed the character of a literary and scientific one, to dispense with this useless and costly piece of ostentation; and they therefore recommend to the committee of arrangements, which may be hereafter appointed to superintend the next triennial festival, to dispense with the employment of a band of military music, or, at least, with all that part of its service which consists in public parade and exhibition.

The committee, though not specially instructed to extend their inquiries any farther, as it respects the constitution, have, nevertheless, been led to consider the expediency of an alteration in that part of it which relates to the admission of life members;* and, with great deference, submit a proposition, the reasons for which must be apparent, and which can hardly be necessary to detail in this report. It is sufficient to remind the association, that a new member may become a life member by paying an entrance, forty dollars, and that there are many members who have paid more than twice that sum already. It would seem, therefore, to be no more than justice to extend the privilege of life membership in such a way as to equalize its advantages; and, more especially, if it can be done

* I am not able to state when the article here referred to was incorporated in the constitution. I have not seen any printed copy of the constitution containing it; and, if any previous notice of it has ever been placed on the records, it has escaped my most industrious examination.

in such a manner as to increase rather than diminish the income of the association. The committee therefore suggest the expediency of expunging the second section of the ninth article, and inserting the following in lieu thereof —

"Any person possessing suitable qualifications may become a member for life by paying *forty* dollars, and shall be exempt from all assessments — all members who have been such for twenty years uninterruptedly and have paid all assessments, shall be exempt from all further assessments, and be considered life members — any member, who has been such twenty years, and has paid all assessments, shall be considered a life member on the payment of ten dollars, and shall be exempt from all further assessments — any member who has been such for ten years, having paid all assessments, on payment of twenty dollars, may be a life member, exempt from all further assessments — and any present member may enjoy the privilege of life membership by paying twenty dollars."

By order of the committee.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS, *Chairman.*

The report was read and taken up in sections. The portions relating to the meetings of the government and committee of relief, and concerning military music, were accepted. The portion relating to alterations of the constitution was recommitted to a part of the committee, viz. S. Fairbanks, J. T. Buckingham, B. Russell, E. D. Clark, and H. Gray, to consider and report. After discussion at two subsequent meetings, the article concerning life membership was accepted, unanimously, and was thenceforward a part of the constitution. The recommendation of the committee that the article concerning the triennial festival be stricken from the constitution, was rejected by a large majority.

In the months of January, February, and March, lectures were delivered by Messrs. Ebenezer Bailey and George B. Emerson, and by Drs. Martin Gay and J. V. C. Smith. These gentlemen declined receiving any compensation for their services. The entire expense attending the lectures, from October 1829, to the close of the season, March 1830, was $187. Messrs. Buckingham, Cotton, Darracott, E. D. Clark, and S. Fairbanks, were constituted a committee to arrange a course of lectures for the next season, and the sum of Two hundred dollars was placed at their disposal for that purpose. The introductory lecture was delivered, October 11, by the Rev. N. L. Frothingham. Hon. E. Everett follow-

ed, with a lecture on "The Workingmen's Party." Hon. William Sullivan, Dr. J. B. Flint, Dr. W. Grigg, Dr. John Park, and Hon. Alexander H. Everett, severally gave lectures each successive week till the end of the year.

From a report of the committee on the library, November 23, it appears that the treasurer had paid bills, amounting, in the preceding four years, to about Three hundred dollars, and that there were then four quarters rent of the room unpaid. No specific appropriation had been ever made for the expenses of this institution.

The school committee recommended an appropriation of Two hundred dollars, to carry on a school for apprentices, — which was adopted by the association.

The ninth triennial festival was celebrated on the seventh of October. The committee of arrangements, as usual, consisted of twelve members in addition to the government. The number of guests, officially invited, was about thirty, embracing, as usual, the highest officers of the state and city, several merchants, clergymen, schoolmasters, members of Congress, and strangers of distinction. The merchants who attended the celebration were Messrs. T. H. Perkins, Thomas Motley, William Sturgis, and Amos Lawrence; — the members of Congress, Daniel Webster, Benjamin Gorham, and Francis Baylies. The public services of the occasion were performed at the Baptist meeting-house in Federal-street; prayer and selections from scripture by the Rev. Howard Malcom, address by J. T. Buckingham, anthem by the choir, &c. &c. The dinner was provided at Faneuil Hall. Three hundred and sixty persons were seated at the tables, — a much greater number than had before participated in the festivities of the occasion. Original songs, sung at the table, were written by Messrs. Isaac McLellan, jun. and Henry J. Finn.

Forty members were this year added to the association: —

Samuel Lynes, Housewright.
Jonathan Denton, Housewright.
Lebbeus Stetson, Housewright.
Daniel G. Ball, Housewright.
Joseph Willcutt, Housewright.
Levi Willcutt, Housewright.
Justin Cook, Housewright.
Isaac Butterfield, Housewright.
George Hall, Housewright.
Samuel Millard, Housewright.
Hosea Bartlett, Housewright.
Joseph Goodwin, Housewright.

Samuel N. Dickinson, Printer.
Henry W. Dutton, Printer.
James Wentworth, Printer.
Andrew Wright, Printer.
Laban S. Beecher, Carver.
John Wedger, Baker.
Richard Austin, Baker.
John A. Pitman, Cooper.
William Rhodes, Cooper.
Roswell Farnham, Cordwainer.
Ebenezer Waters, jun. Coppersmith.
Benjamin Beals, jun. Coppersmith.
John Lothrop, Sail-maker.
Southworth Bryant, Painter.
Charles Henderson, Painter.
Ebenezer Scott, Painter.
Henry A. Hovey, Chaise-maker.
Edward Bell, Bricklayer.
Richard Witherell, Bricklayer.
Samuel Pratt, Bricklayer.
Lazarus Bowker, Bricklayer.
Nathaniel Sweet, Bricklayer.
Thomas Bagnall, Pump and Block maker.
Leavitt Souther, Shipwright.
Moses Grant, Paper-maker.
John Holbrook, Shipsmith.
Thomas Christy, Saddler.
Rufus Brackett, Morocco-manufacturer.

Fourteen were discharged for obstinate delinquency; two were discharged at their own request; and eight died, viz:— Turell Tuttle, jun. Horace Fox, William Jennings, Luke Richardson, John Kreuger, Isaac Pierce, William A. Dow, and Horatio N. Williams.

Mr. Bowditch, an honorary member, made a donation of One hundred dollars to the fund. Another donation of a like sum was made by an individual, whose modesty did not permit him to divulge his name.

The committee of relief distributed in charity Three hundred and fifty dollars.

Various sums due in assessments were remitted, — one of Seventeen dollars and fifty cents to Jonathan Hunewell, who, in the days of his prosperity, had been one of the greatest benefactors of the association, — a melancholy illustration of the reverses of fortune.

Several changes were made in the investment of the funds, all of which tended to increase the aggregate value of the property.

At a government meeting, the treasurer reported that "he had received a note from one of our much-honored citizens, enclosing One hundred dollars, for, as he very kindly expressed it, 'the funds of that respectable and useful institution, the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association,' accompanied with an injunction that no public notice should be taken of it; — observing that he thought he did not give, if public

thanks were returned." The treasurer was requested to present the thanks of the association to the liberal benefactor, for his donation to the funds and for the kind wishes which accompanied it.

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# 1831.

Annual meeting, January 6. The committee of finance presented their report, of which the following is an abstract: —

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The secretary received, during the year 1830, on account of admission fees, | | $390 00 |
| Quarterly assessments, | | 945 50 |
| Festival, | | 792 50 |
| | | $2,128 00 |
| The treasurer had in his hands, including the balance of former account, receipts from secretary, dividends from banks, and bank stock, | | $4,621 01 |
| And had paid, to the committee of relief, | $350 00 | |
| To the families of eight deceased members, | 320 00 | |
| Committee on lectures, | 200 00 | |
| Bank shares, | 1,350 00 | |
| Sundry warrants, | 1,415 33 | |
| Balance on hand, | 985 68 | $4,621 01 |

The whole available property, $15,681 73.

The government for the year was organized as follows: —

Daniel Messinger, *President.* John Cotton, *Treasurer.*
Joseph T. Buckingham, *Vice-President.* Joseph Lewis, *Secretary.*

John Kuhn, Charles A. Wells,
Uriel Crocker, Robert Bacon,
Thomas Whitmarsh, James Spear,
Martin Bates, Isaac Davis,
Samuel S. Williams, *Trustees.*

The meeting was adjourned, and continued by several adjournments, weekly, till the end of March. At the meeting, February 7, a committee, to whom had been referred a proposition that the association should subscribe for a number of

sets of "The Mechanic's Magazine," for the apprentices' library, made a report, of which the following is the substance: —

. . . They learned a few important facts in regard to the library, highly honorable to the apprentices, and which must be gratifying to the members of the association to hear: — Since some of this committee had the pleasure to attend to the concerns of the library, a number of years ago, very great improvements have grown up which it is pleasant to notice; such as the voluntary tax imposed upon themselves by the apprentices, of Twenty-five cents a year, to increase the stock of books and newspapers; the organization of themselves into a debating society, and having rules and regulations for their government, and for the delivery and return of the books, highly creditable; and, lastly, the very good condition of what books they have, which are kept so by the managers, who enforce all the salutary by-laws which they have enacted for their government.

The committee then thought how laudably this association had come forward with funds to open a school for their apprentices, and also to institute lectures in every branch of useful knowledge for the entertainment and advantage of the members themselves; and how very beneficial both had proved to the interests of the association, in raising its fame and increasing its funds and its moral strength; and, if these were so excellent objects for the disbursement of money, that it would likewise be equally important to distribute a portion towards supplying proper books for our lads to read, who now throng the library room at every opening, and are obliged to take whatever can be handed them from a very scanty store of old books, — few of which are of first rate value.

The committee further think that benevolence cannot be better exerted than by fostering this library, and extending, with judgement, its catalogue of useful books. The funds appropriated to the relief of the widow are, it is true, of the first importance; but the association cannot regard *that* of less importance, which is given to instruct the widow's son in the ways of virtue, in keeping him from the vulgar resorts of idleness, and in making him, perhaps, a benefactor to his mother and an ornament to his species. Reflecting, therefore, on the importance of keeping the young mind actively engaged in useful reading, whenever it has the least leisure, the committee came to the conclusion to recommend to the association that they appropriate a sum not exceeding Fifty dollars a year for the purchase of useful periodicals, and recommend a subscription for five sets of the Mechanic's Magazine, one set of Silliman's Journal, one of the Franklin Institute's Journal, and one of such other work as the library committee think most proper.

The committee cannot close without soliciting the attention of the individual members to this interesting concern, and begging of them to contribute to its encouragement by the donation of any books from their

closets and cases which they can spare; the accumulation of which in one place may be the means of eliciting that genius from some young mind, which might otherwise remain buried in the head till the head itself be buried in the dust, and no one the wiser for its having been in the world.

Respectfully submitted, &c. DAVID FRANCIS, *Chairman.*

At the closing of the course of lectures, as appears by the report of the committee, twenty-five lectures had been delivered, — by Dr. J. V. C. Smith, Theophilus R. Marvin, (on the origin of printing,) Dr. Storer, (on entomology,) Dr. J. B. Flint, (on animal anatomy,) Dr. C. Robbins, (on internal anatomy,) Rev. Hosea Hildreth, (on the evils of intemperance,) Dr. John C. Warren, (on the brain,) in addition to the gentlemen before mentioned.* The whole expense of which was about Two hundred dollars. Messrs. Buckingham, Cotton, Darracott, E. D. Clark, and Fairbanks, were chosen a committee to procure a course of lectures for the next season.

A vote was passed, August 11, directing the treasurer to subscribe for fifty shares in the "Mechanic's Hall Association." †

An *adjourned* meeting of the association was held at the Marlboro' Hotel, on the evening of Sunday, August 11, to hear an address on intemperance, by the Rev. Joseph Tuckerman. A vote of thanks was given to Dr. J. C. Warren, and Messrs. Lemuel Shaw, and Amos Lawrence, at whose request the meeting had been held to hear the lecture. It was also

*Voted,* That this association approve the sentiments contained in the address, and that the government, be requested to cause their approbation to be affixed to the same, when printed for distribution.

Signed, JOHN COTTON, *Presiding officer.*

This vote was read at the next government meeting; and, after deliberation, it was "*Voted,* That, as much as this board may coincide with the above expression of the association,

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* See page 132

† On the petition of Daniel Messinger, Ezra Dyer, and J. T. Buckingham, the Legislature had granted to those petitioners and their associates an act of incorporation, for erecting a Mechanic Hall. The petitioners made strenuous exertions to get the sum of Thirty thousand dollars subscribed for the purpose, but the attempt did not succeed.

they deem it inexpedient to affix their names to any address relative thereto." At the same meeting of the government, a communication was received from Stephen Fairbanks, concerning the formation of a city temperance society. After reference to a committee, the government voted, that it was inexpedient to take any order thereon.

At the quarterly meeting, October 6, the committee appointed to make arrangements for a course of lectures reported, that they had engaged the services of Messrs. Henry A. S. Dearborn, A. H. Everett, William Sullivan, Rev. George Ripley, Rev. John Pierpont, Messrs. Benjamin A. Gould, Thomas G. Fessenden, Joseph Jenkins, Francis Alger, Doctors J. V. C. Smith, Davis, and Fisher.

The committee on schools, by their chairman, C. Wells, made a report in detail, giving an encouraging account of the progress of the pupils in writing, arithmetic, and book-keeping, under the instruction of Mr. James Robinson. The report was accepted, and Two hundred and fifty dollars appropriated for the school about to commence for the season.

Fifty-five candidates, whose names follow, were admitted to membership: —

Edward Haskell, Type-founder.
William H. Farnham, Block and Pump-maker.
Charles Bullard, Leather-dresser.
Curtis Searle, Cordwainer.
John Hunt, Housewright.
Benjamin Brown, Housewright.
Ephraim W. Edmands, Housewright.
John Davenport, Housewright.
Nathaniel Hammond, Housewright.
Benjamin Stoddard, Housewright.
Clement Willis, Housewright.
Perez Cushing, Housewright.
Mark Weare, Housewright.
Ruel Baker, Painter.
Reuben T. Robinson, Painter.
Charles Redding, Painter.
Nathaniel Blake, Sail-maker.
Joseph Austin, jun. Tin-plate-worker.
William B Annin, Engraver.
Alonzo Hartwell, Engraver.
George G. Smith, Engraver.
Nathaniel Willis, Printer.
Edwin Buckingham, Printer.
William W. Clapp, Printer.
George Bass, Hatter.
John Russell, Bricklayer.
Andrew McKenney, Bricklayer.
John Goss, Bricklayer.
James Knott, Cordwainer.
Thomas Turner, Cordwainer.
Augustus S. Homes, Distiller.
Stevens Burleigh, Distiller.
Edward Cazneau, Hingham, Umbrella-maker.
William Underwood, Manufacturer.
John Staples, Tailor.
John G. Wyman, Tailor.
Henry Lienow, Tailor.

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ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

Jos. T. Buckingham.

Jamin Brown, Chair-maker.
Austin, Comb-maker.
G. Gates, Chair-painter.
Jocelyn, Quincy, Ship-
Right.
Blackley, Machinist.
Cadenas, Machinist.
Richardson, Currier.
S. Johnson, Stair-builder.
Bridge, Blacksmith.
Elisha L. Hammond, Plasterer.
Thomas Crehore, Card-manufacturer.
George W. Blake, Bricklayer.
John A. Page, Bricklayer.
Amos Sawyer, Baker.
John D. Murray, Brush-maker.
Bela Marsh, Bookbinder.
John Larrabee, Rope-maker.

Twelve of these had not signed the constitution when the closed. Six members died, viz:— Ezekiel Jones, —— James Fullick, John Russell, James Dudley, and Bugbee. Unceasing efforts were made by the government to collect the arrearages from careless and delinquent members: notwithstanding which, seven were discharged for delinquency. One member withdrew his name.

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# 1832.

final meeting, January 5. The president as chairman the committee of finance, presented the annual report, which it appeared that the treasurer had received (including the balance of the last year's account,— the sum of 128 from the secretary for admission fees and assessments, donation of $58 from William H. Eliot,— and divi- of bank stock,) *Two thousand eight hundred and eighty- dollars and sixty-eight cents*;— and that, after paying to committee of relief $200, to the families of deceased members $240,— to the committee on lectures $200,— to school committee $225,— for sundry bank shares $1,[illegible] and for sundry contingencies $357 46,— he had on hand balance of $314 22. The whole amount of the fund was *three thousand two hundred and seventy-four dollars and ty-two cents*. The bank shares commanded a premium ve their par value of five per cent. amounting in the whole more than *Seven hundred and fifty dollars.*

Jos. T. Buckingham

Benjamin Brown, Chair-maker.
John Austin, Comb-maker.
James G. Gates, Chair-painter.
Nathan Jocelyn, Quincy, Ship-wright.
Homes Hinckley, Machinist.
John Codman, Machinist.
Alpha Richardson, Currier.
Abijah S. Johnson, Stair-builder.
William Bridge, Blacksmith.
Elisha L. Hammond, Plasterer.
Thomas Crehore, Card-manufacturer.
George W. Blake, Bricklayer.
John A. Page, Bricklayer.
Amos Sawyer, Baker.
John D. Murray, Brush-maker.
Bela Marsh, Bookbinder.
John Larrabee, Rope-maker.

Twelve of these had not signed the constitution when the year closed. Six members died, viz:— Ezekiel Jones, —— Waterman, James Fullick, John Russell, James Dudley, and Edward Bugbee. Unceasing efforts were made by the government to collect the arrearages from careless and delinquent members: notwithstanding which, seven were discharged for obstinate delinquency. One member withdrew his name.

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## 1832.

Annual meeting, January 5. The president as chairman of the committee of finance, presented the annual report, from which it appeared that the treasurer had received (including the balance of the last year's account,— the sum of $1,028 from the secretary for admission fees and assessments, —a donation of $58 from William H. Eliot,— and dividends of bank stock,) *Two thousand eight hundred and eighty-six dollars and sixty-eight cents;*— and that, after paying to the committee of relief $200, to the families of deceased members $240,— to the committee on lectures $200,— to the school committee $225,— for sundry bank shares $1,250, —and for sundry contingencies $357 46,— he had on hand a balance of $314 22. The whole amount of the fund was *Sixteen thousand two hundred and seventy-four dollars and forty-two cents.* The bank shares commanded a premium above their par value of five per cent. amounting in the whole to more than *Seven hundred and fifty dollars.*

At the conclusion of this report the committee say — "In addition to the deaths mentioned in the preceding report, the committee cannot refrain from mentioning that of their late worthy honorary member, William H. Eliot, Esq. for whose liberality and untiring zeal in the advancing of the arts and sciences, and all works of public utility, — for whose encouragement in less prosperous times to many members of this association, (the mechanics and artizans of his native city,) and for whose private worth, talents, and moral character, his name will be endeared to us all and his memory cherished." *

The president, Mr. Messinger, declined a re-election. The government for the year was then organized as follows: —

Joseph T. Buckingham, *President.* John Cotton, *Treasurer.*
Ezra Dyer, *Vice-President.* Joseph Lewis, *Secretary.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Thomas Whitmarsh, | Isaac Davis, |
| Uriel Crocker, | James Davis, |
| Martin Bates, | John K. Simpson, |
| Charles A. Wells, | Bill Richardson, † |
| Robert Bacon, | *Trustees.* |

* This gentleman was the son of Samuel Eliot, an eminent merchant of Boston. He graduated at Harvard college in 1815, and afterward studied law. But he was more ambitious in the promotion of public improvements than to follow a profession that was already thronged with eager candidates for wealth and professional honor. The erection of the Tremont-house, and the furnishing of it for the accommodation of the citizens of Boston and its transient visiters, was owing entirely to his energy and perseverance. He was a representative in the Legislature in 1832, and was the principal agent in procuring a charter for the Boston and Providence Railroad Corporation. In December, 1832, while the municipal election in Boston was pending, and the friends of two "regularly nominated" candidates were engaged in electioneering for their respective favorites, the friends of Mr. Eliot brought him before the public as a candidate. The nomination was popular and the prospect of his election was encouraging. The Boston Courier took strong ground in his favor; and, three days before the day assigned for election, had an article setting forth his claims and justifying his friends for their proceedings, which was thus abruptly terminated: —

"Alas! the voice of praise and the commendations of friendship, have no power to recall the breath that has gone, nor can the recital of claims to public honors and distinction 'provoke the silent dust, or soothe the dull cold ear of the dead.' Well may we exclaim, in the language of Burke, 'What shadows we are, what shadows we pursue!' Our pen refuses all other office than to blot out nearly all that we have written as useless and unavailing; for before we had finished our contemplated task, the subject of our recommendation ceased to be a candidate for the honors that his friends were preparing to bestow. William Harvard Eliot is dead. That short sentence comprises all that can now be said of him in connection with the topics discussed in this article. His merits deserve a different notice, but the present moment is too affecting — and here we stop."

† Mr. Richardson declined serving as a trustee, and Edmund Munroe was chosen to fill his place.

A committee of the Legislature invited the association to attend, as a body, the centennial celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Washington, — which was accepted. Most of the members appeared in the public procession.

The apprentices' library was surrendered to the entire control of the apprentices themselves — the association relinquishing all claim to its supervision and all responsibility for its expenses, after the month of June.

Quarterly meeting, October 4. The committee on lectures submitted the following report, which was accepted: —

. . . In procuring lecturers heretofore, the usual method has been to solicit the services of such gentlemen as would deliver lectures gratuitously; but, from the experience your committee have had, they believe it will be utterly impossible to obtain good lecturers in future on those terms; besides which, the practice of having single lectures, on subjects, which, to give any definite and profitable information, would require a whole course, is not, in their opinion, best calculated to promote the mechanic arts, and thereby the interest and respectability of the association, as mechanics, artists, manufacturers, and citizens. In order to arrive at so desirable a result, your committee are of opinion, and feel it their duty to recommend, that a regular course of lectures should be delivered, on subjects connected or collateral with mechanic science, especially those branches immediately applicable to the arts and manufactures, two of the most important of which are mechanics and chemistry. A practical knowledge of these sciences is undoubtedly of the highest consideration to mechanics, as all of them are, more or less, either directly or remotely, connected with professional skill in every trade and calling. It is believed that there is not a single mechanic, who may not gain some positive advantage in his worldly wealth and comfort, by increasing his knowledge at the fountain head of the sciences, and that a person is much more likely to succeed in his business, having this knowledge; he is not only less liable to be unsuccessful in any of his operations, but, in case of failure, knows how to apply the remedy. His occupation becomes more agreeable to him in proportion as he applies his scientific knowledge to his local business; and what was before, at times, irksome, will now be his pleasure. As he becomes more acquainted with this knowledge, it exalts his mind, and elevates his faculties above low pursuits, teaching him to look upon all subjects as below his notice, which are not useful in the pursuit of knowledge or the cultivation of virtue.

In recommending this course, your committee do not look for great results the present season, but confidently consider the method here proposed as the commencement of those results, only to be obtained by a

steady and persevering application of proper means for those desirable objects. If the association should see fit to adopt the course here proposed, ways and means must be provided, and for that purpose the committee propose the following resolution, viz: — That Five hundred dollars be now appropriated, from the funds of the association, towards defraying the expense of a course of lectures, to be instituted by the government for the approaching winter.

By order of the committee.

Signed, CHARLES A. WELLS, *Chairman.*

The president, the treasurer, and Charles A. Wells were appointed a committee to arrange the lectures. The same members were authorized as a committee, to procure any apparatus that might be required to illustrate any scientific lecture that might be given.

The lectures for the season commenced on the nineteenth of October. An introductory lecture was delivered by George S. Hillard, Esq. which, by special request of the association, was repeated a few weeks afterward. October 26, Edward Brooks, Esq. delivered a lecture "on the most useful methods of investing the profits of labor." At the next meeting of the association, Stephen Fairbanks offered the following preamble and resolutions: —

Whereas a lecture has recently been delivered by Edward Brooks, Esq. before this association, in which he made some very interesting remarks upon the subject of establishing a bank upon the principles of *cash credit*, &c. Therefore,

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this association, that a bank, founded upon such principles, would be particularly beneficial, and adapted to the wants of the mechanics of this city.

Resolved, That a committee of seven be appointed, by nomination from the chair, to take into consideration the expediency of petitioning the Legislature, at its next session, for a charter for a bank, to be conducted upon the principles above referred to, and to report at the next meeting.

The resolutions were adopted, and Stephen Fairbanks, Jonathan Whitney, Samuel T. Armstrong, Charles Wells, John P. Thorndike, John K. Simpson, and Simon Wilkinson were appointed to constitute the committee. The committee subsequently reported, by Mr. Fairbanks, their chairman, that "such are the present laws regulating all moneyed institutions in the commonwealth, that it will not be practicable to ob-

tain a bill, which will grant any privileges not now enjoyed by all other chartered banks." After some other incidental remarks, the committee say, — "The important principles which we believe will render the contemplated bank so highly beneficial to the mechanics, and others connected with it, are, the allowing of interest on deposites and the granting of cash credits." The committee declined to report, in detail, an answer to all the objections which some had mentioned to the proposed institution, preferring to state their views in oral communications. They offered the following resolution: —

Resolved, That a bank, to be called the Mechanic's Saving Bank, with a capital of Five hundred thousand dollars, to be divided into shares of One hundred dollars each, should be forthwith chartered by the mechanics and others in this city; but it is inexpedient for the members of the association, *in their corporate capacity*, to engage in such an enterprize.

The committee on procuring a scientific apparatus reported that it was desirable that such an apparatus should be procured for the purpose of illustrating the principles of mechanics, and proposed that subscriptions for the purchase should be solicited, and the amount, if any should be received, should be expended under the direction of the government.

Several attempts were made during the year to *improve* the constitution; but no change was effected, excepting one touching a mere formality in regard to the admission of members.

The salary of the secretary was raised to One hundred dollars.

The lectures were continued, weekly, to the close of the year, by Professor Farrar, on astronomy.

Seven members, — Levi Cook, Jeremiah P. Smith, Samuel Tuttle, Joel Prouty, Samuel Brintnall, Almoran Homes, and Jacob Todd, deceased.*

Fifty-nine candidates were admitted, viz: —

| | |
|---|---|
| Joseph L. Fisher, Turner. | Granville Mears, Tailor. |
| Isaac Bird, Paper-hanger. | William C. Bond, Watch-maker. |

* This statement, and the names of deceased members as they appear in subsequent pages, are derived from the treasurer's account of donations to the families of deceased members. No notice of deaths appears in the record after 1831.

Noah Butts, Machinist.
Thomas Ayer, Housewright.
John Sikes, Housewright.
John G. Champney, Housewright.
John Bolles, Housewright.
Robert White, Housewright.
Caleb G. Pratt, Housewright.
Mark Weare, Housewright.
George W. Cram, Housewright.
James Sinclair, Housewright.
Ezra Burleigh, Housewright.
John C. Greenough, Housewright.
Jesse Niles, Housewright.
Rolun Hartshorn, Housewright.
Francis Allen, Housewright.
Luther Horr, Housewright.
Gookin Parker, Housewright.
Jonathan Davis, Pavier.
Jesse P. Hurlbert, Paper-maker.
Thomas Moulton, Bricklayer.
Joseph Shipley, Bricklayer.
Nichols Tower, Bricklayer.
Bourne Spooner, Cordage-manufacturer.
Joseph A. White, Rigger.
James J. McLennan, Rigger.
Augustus A. Hayes, Chemist.
Albert Homer, Painter.
Timothy S. Nichols, Painter.
A. H. Read, Currier.
Henry Bailey, Hatter.
Nathaniel Francis, Pump and Block-maker.
Stephen Shelton, Pump and Block-maker.
S. G. Hemenway, Hatter.
Joseph M. Sherburne, Hatter.
Benjamin A. Brown, House-and-Ship-joiner.
George Housely, Copper-smith.
Andrew Floyd, Copper-smith.
Isaac G. Tompkins, Copper-smith.
John H. Carter, Copper-smith.
David W. Hill, Copper-smith.
Thomas Chamberlin, Copper-smith.
Edward Chamberlin, jun. Copper and Brass-founder.
James P. Ingalls, Copper and Brass-founder.
James Riley, Saddler.
John G. Ross, Cabinet-maker.
William Grant, Clock-maker.
George W. Adams, Black and White-smith.
G. J. H. Smith, Pocket-Book-maker.
Edward C. Tirrell, Cordwainer.
Joseph Greenough, Stone-cutter.
Lyman Thurston, Type-founder.
Alfred Willard, Comb-maker.
Samuel Brown, Mast-maker.
William Souther, Bookbinder.
Samuel M. Fales, Iron-founder.

A Fair and Exhibition of manufactures and the products of the mechanic arts had been frequently mentioned at the meetings of the government, and was a favorite project with a few of the members, but a majority of them treated it with coldness. Charles A. Wells was the most zealous advocate of it, and at the government meeting in November, procured the passage of the following vote: — "That Messrs. Wells, Crocker, and Whitmarsh be a committee to consider the expediency of establishing an exhibition of inventions and improvements, and specimens of workmanship in the mechanic arts, and granting premiums therefor, agreeable to the third section of the act of incorporation."

This was the first effective movement in favor of the Fair. Mr. Wells's term of service as a trustee expired at the close of the next year, but he never ceased to urge upon the association the propriety of the project and the certainty of its success. He even exhibited his enthusiasm so far as to say that if the government would authorize it, he would, himself, assume the responsibility of all expenses over and above the receipts of the exhibition. He stated to the committee, that he would get up an exhibition on his own account, and be alone responsible for the result, provided he might use the name of the association for that purpose, — thus giving the association all the credit, if it succeeded, and taking upon himself all the reproach, if it should fail. Nothing decisive, however, was done this year in relation to the matter.

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## 1833.

Annual meeting, January 3. The report from the committee of finance, made by the president at the opening of the meeting, exhibited the condition of the association more in detail than had been usual in similar documents. The secretary had received, during the past year, in quarterly assessments, $644 50; fees of admission from new members, $510; from J. T. Buckingham, $10; from Charles A. Wells, $20; from Uriel Crocker, $20; and from David Francis, $10; being the sums necessary to constitute those members respectively life members. The amount of these various receipts was $1,214 50. There remained due to the secretary from members, $963 70. The gross amount received by the treasurer, from the secretary and dividends on bank stock, was $2,540 37½. Of that sum he had paid out on warrants, $2,315 43, leaving in his hands a balance of $224 80. The property of the association, consisting of bank stock, cash in a bank on interest, cash on hand, and assessments due, amounted to *Seventeen thousand three hundred and eight dollars and fifty-nine cents.* The bank shares were rated at par

in this statement; but the treasurer estimated their additional value in the market at $967 30. After these details, the report says: —

The committee congratulate their brethren and associates on the flourishing condition of the institution. They believe that there are few institutions in the metropolis more useful in practical results. The disposition of a considerable portion of our income within the last few years to purposes of improvement in intellectual and scientific pursuits, by means of lectures and a school for apprentices, has given to the association a degree of popularity, and demanded of the public a consideration and respect for the individuals of which it is composed, which would not, probably, have ever been derived from its operations as a charitable institution only. The committee would not, willingly, subject themselves to an imputation of self-conceit or idle ostentation; but they cannot refrain from expressing their belief that no society in the commonwealth embraces a larger aggregate of the talents and virtues, which confer honor and respectability on societies and individuals, nor a larger proportion of individuals whose private worth and public spirit entitle them to the confidence and respect of the public, and to a share in all the offices of trust and distinction which their fellow-citizens can bestow. As an evidence that this representation is not an empty boast, nor the overflowing of professional or personal vanity, the committee refer to the fact, that the second magistrate of the commonwealth, one senator from the county of Suffolk, seventeen members of the House of Representatives, the mayor of the city of Boston, (whose official character and station are hardly less dignified than those of the lieutenant-governor,) one alderman, and eight members of the common council, are members of this association; and all of them (four only excepted,) were brought up practical and operative mechanics; and each has been the unassisted architect of his own fortune and reputation. *

This view of our present condition is surely gratifying to every man who values the esteem and confidence of his fellow-men, and should excite us, — as the committee doubt not it will, — to greater activity in the provision of means for social, intellectual, and moral improvement, and to a more settled perseverance in the practice of those virtues, which form the golden chain that binds the civil, political, and moral universe together.

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* The persons here referred to were Samuel T. Armstrong, lieutenant-governor; John Cotton, senator; Cyrus Alger, Samuel Aspinwall, Joseph T. Buckingham, Ezra Dyer, Harrison Gray, George Hallett, Nathaniel Hammond, Winslow Lewis, Joseph Lewis, Charles Leighton, Daniel Messinger, Benjamin Russell, Edward H. Robbins, Benjamin Stevens, John B. Wells, and Simon Wilkinson, representatives; Charles Wells, mayor; William Tileston, alderman; Enoch H. Snelling, John B. Wells, James Clark, Charles Leighton, Daniel Messinger, John Doggett, Jacob Amee, and Ruel Baker, members of the common council.

A considerable portion of the report was occupied with suggestions concerning the practice, which had been authorized a few years before, of delivering certificates of membership to persons admitted as members without demanding of such persons the quarterly assessments that might have accrued between the date of their admission and the time of their application for their certificates. This practice gave to members, who neglected for some time to sign the constitution, an advantage over those who were punctual in the performance of their implied obligations. The committee recommended the adoption of a resolve, "That every person hereafter admitted a member of the association, shall, on signing the constitution and taking his certificate of membership, be considered responsible for, and be charged with, all assessments which may have accrued after the time of his admission by the ballots of the association." The resolution was unanimously adopted.

John Cotton, the treasurer, declined a re-election. The following officers were elected for the year: —

Joseph T. Buckingham, *President.*
Ezra Dyer, *Vice-President.*
Uriel Crocker, *Treasurer.*
Joseph Lewis, *Secretary.*

Charles A. Wells,
Robert Bacon,
Isaac Davis,
James Davis,
John K. Simpson,
Edmund Munroe,
Jacob Amee,
Samuel Curtis,
Joseph Bassett,*
*Trustees.*

The committee of finance was directed to procure a piece of plate, not exceeding One hundred dollars in value, and present it to Mr. Cotton, the late treasurer, as a testimonial of respect for his services. The vote was complied with, and the committee presented to him a silver pitcher, on which was engraved the following inscription: —

From the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, to the Hon. John Cotton, (one of the original members of the association,) as a testimonial of their respect for his services, as secretary, treasurer, trustee, president, and vice-president, and of their wish to be remembered as his associates.

* Mr. Bassett declined serving, and Charles Leighton was chosen to fill his place.

Charles A. Wells, Robert Bacon, and Isaac Davis were added to the president and vice-president, to constitute the committee of finance.

During the months of January, February, and March, lectures were delivered by Messrs. James T. Austin, A. A. Hayes, and William B. Calhoun.

After the closing of the lectures in March, the committee, who had charge of that subject, reported that no arrangement was made with those gentlemen for any specific sum, as a compensation; but the committee concluded that Fifteen dollars for each lecture was as small a sum as could be tendered to them, consistent with the character of the gentlemen and the dignity of the association, — and, accordingly, that sum was paid to each. Mr. Brooks returned the money that had been sent to him for his lecture in the preceding autumn, with a request that it might be placed to his credit, as a subscription for procuring a philosophical apparatus, or models and instruments to be used as illustrations of scientific lectures. The expense of the lectures for the season, from October to March, was Five hundred and eighty-eight dollars.

May 2. Government meeting. The president laid before the government a letter from Mr. Amos Lawrence, proposing that the association should endeavor to procure, by subscription, a sum of money sufficient to complete the Monument on Bunker-Hill, and engaging, in case they should succeed, to make a present to the association, of *Ten thousand dollars.* The suggestions contained in the letter were deemed important to the interest and character of the association, and a special meeting was called, to take the matter into consideration. Sundry resolutions, approving of the projects, were offered by S. T. Armstrong, which, after some discussion, were referred to a committee, consisting of the president, Messrs. Armstrong, C. Wells, and Thorndike, to be considered and reported on at an adjourned meeting. This adjourned meeting was held May 16. The committee reported, —

That the sum of Fifty thousand dollars is necessary to complete the monument; — that about Fifteen thousand may

e calculated on from a few liberal citizens, leaving Thirty-ve thousand dollars to be collected by the association, for he purpose of finishing the monument, liberating the field rom a mortgage, and ornamenting the grounds. The report lso stated, that the building committee of the Monument Association would be so constituted as that our Mechanic Association would be satisfactorily represented in that body, nd have the oversight and control of the expenditure of the um raised by their exertions. The report recommended the doption of the resolutions, offered by Mr. Armstrong, and hey were accordingly adopted.

The meeting was then adjourned to meet in Faneuil Hall n the 28th of May, at which the public were invited to at-end. The concourse was large and enthusiastic. The fol-owing brief address to the people, including the resolutions bove mentioned, was read by the president. The audience vas then addressed by Messrs. George Blake, Charles G. Greene, Edward Everett, and Judge Story.

TO THE PEOPLE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

In common with a great majority of their fellow-citizens, the members f the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association have, for several ears, beheld with deep regret and mortification the condition of the nonument on Bunker-Hill. This monument, intended to commemorate ne of the most important events recorded in the history of our country, is well known, was commenced in the year 1825, by a number of pa-riotic and public-spirited gentlemen, who, together with all those who ubscribed Five dollars or more towards its erection, were incorporated by ne name of the Bunker-Hill Monument Association. The work was arried on under the direction of a building committee, appointed by the irectors of the association, until some time in the year 1828; when, the riginal funds created by subscription, having been exhausted, the com-nittee unavoidably suspended the work. Several attempts have since een made to obtain funds sufficient to complete the monument, but have een attended with very limited success. It remains in the unfinished ondition in which it was left at the period above named — an object of eproach, with some, — of humiliation and regret, to all.

The present is a period of national as well as individual prosperity. Business is active and profitable; and there seems to be a universal con-idence in the continuance of this state of things, so gratifying to every patriotic and personal feeling. Of the practicability of now raising a sum sufficient to complete the monument there can be no doubt. It is now

nine years since the first subscription was made. In that time, our po lation has been rapidly increasing, and a large number of young n have entered upon the active business of life, who will, no doubt, fee desirous as the original members of the association to participate in patriotic work. It is probable, too, that many of the original subscri will be willing to double their subscription, and, having given Five lars eight years ago, will now add five more, with the certainty of structure being speedily completed.

In order that the magnitude of the undertaking may be seen at the following statements are respectfully submitted, — the accura which may be relied on.

Although the height to which the monument has been raised abov ground, is but about thirty-six feet, yet, considering the great depth massiveness of the foundation, — the expense of fixtures on the hi the wharf where the stone is landed, and at the quarry, — and the tity of stone (not less than two thousand tons) already prepared, — stated by the intelligent and accurate architect, Solomon Willard, E his printed exposition in 1830, that *the work is two-thirds completed.* the data furnished by him, it appears that the expense of raising it t height of 220 feet will be $25,925. To cover any excess over this mate, (which, however, in a work two-thirds completed, cannot be g and to enclose and plant the field with trees, it may be safe to as $30,000, as the sum required to finish the monument. The Ladies' I on interest, which is exclusively appropriated to this object, amou something more than $3,000. The property of the association, to be posed of after the monument shall have been finished, will, it is beli produce $4,500, leaving a sum of $22,500 requisite to be raised to plete the structure. The debt of the corporation, for which the la pledged, amounts to $28,000. In order to complete the monument close the whole field, and liberate the land from its incumbrance, necessary to raise the sum of $50,500, and it seems to be brought w certain calculation that that sum will be sufficient.

Actuated by a strong desire that this memorial of the patriotism martyrdom of our fathers should no longer remain in an unfinished the members of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association undertaken to raise the money required for its completion. After dili investigation and solemn deliberation, at two several meetings, on sixteenth of May the following preamble and resolutions were un mously adopted : —

" Whereas the present condition of the Bunker-Hill Monument is as can afford but little pleasure to contemplate, and, should it lo remain in its present unfinished state, may justly expose this commu to the taunting reproach of having attempted what we cannot achiev having begun to build that which we are unable to finish ; and

" Whereas it has been represented to this association that several lic-spirited and opulent citizens have signified their readiness to aid

eral contribution towards defraying the expense of completing the Bun-r-Hill Monument; and whereas it appears from a letter communicated the president to this meeting, that those gentlemen are desirous that s association should, as a body, institute measures to carry into effect, possible, an enterprize so clearly patriotic and so ardently desired, —

"Therefore *Resolved*, That this association most cordially respond to hat they are induced to believe to be the general wish of the community, to witness the immediate completion of the Bunker-Hill Monument; d that we will with great cheerfulness, not less in accordance with our n feelings than in compliance with the desire of others, make a vigor-s effort to secure forthwith the subscription of an adequate amount of oney for this object.

"*Resolved*, That the president, vice-president, treasurer and trustees be a mmittee to prepare and publish an address to the public, setting forth e present state of the monument, and the amount of money requisite to omplete the structure, and to relieve the battle-ground from all incum-rances; and that these officers also be a committee to provide a suitable umber of subscription books, and to nominate such other members of the ssociation as they may deem necessary to co-operate with them in solic-ting donations.

"*Resolved*, That the Mechanic Associations in the various parts of the commonwealth, and our brethren, the mechanics, generally, be invited, and they are hereby respectfully, cordially, and earnestly invited to aid this undertaking by such pecuniary and personal assistance as it may comport with their convenience to afford.

"*Resolved*, That when this meeting adjourns, it adjourn to meet at Fan-euil Hall, to hear the report of the committee, at such time as the president may designate by notification in the newspapers of the city; and that our fellow-citizens throughout the commonwealth, who can make it conven-ient, and who approve of the object of this meeting, be and they hereby are respectfully invited to assemble with us on that occasion, and unite with us in the adoption of such measures as will ensure the fulfilment of our purpose."

In obedience to these resolutions, the committee therein appointed have prepared this brief address, and do hereby most respectfully and earnestly invite their fellow-citizens throughout the commonwealth, without dis-tinction of name, party, or profession, to aid them by subscriptions, and by personal exertions to procure subscriptions, to carry forward their pro-ject to its consummation.

By direction of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association.

Signed by all the members of the government.

*Boston, May* 22, 1833.

The action of the association, and its government, empow-ered to act as an executive committee, during the summer, is

stated in the following report, submitted to the association at its quarterly meeting, October 3: —

The executive committee appointed at a special meeting of the association on the sixteenth of May, 1833, to carry into effect the intentions of the association, as expressed by their recorded votes, in reference to the procuring of subscriptions toward the completion of the monument on Bunker-Hill, report: —

That, agreeably to instructions from time to time received from the association, they appointed various committees to aid them in the performance of their duties. In the city of Boston, a committee, consisting of nine members was assigned to each ward, and each committee was furnished with a suitable number of subscription books.

These committees, in general, it is believed, performed the services assigned them with alacrity and promptness, but not all with a uniform degree of success. From two of the wards no returns have as yet been made, and this committee have not been able to make out a very exact statement of the entire amount of subscriptions. Judging from such means of information as they have at their command, it is believed that the aggregate amount of the subscriptions in the city is not far from Twenty-two thousand dollars. A considerable proportion of this sum (probably half of it) is subscribed on the condition that the full amount of Fifty thousand dollars should be subscribed previous to the first of June 1834. Of the remainder, subscribed in the several wards, $4,215 has been paid to the chairman of the committee.

From various military and masonic associations, engine and fire companies, and other societies formed for literary and social purposes, the following sums have been received: —

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|---|---|
| Boston Light Infantry, | $100 00 |
| Boston Encampment, | 100 00 |
| Cambridgeport Engine Company, | 50 00 |
| Engine No. 1, Boston, | 100 00 |
| Hatter's Society, | 300 00 |
| Speculative Society, | 136 00 |
| St. Paul's Chapter, | 100 00 |
| Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, | 100 00 |
| Engine No. 3, Charlestown, | 150 00 |
| Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, | 200 00 |
| King Solomon's Lodge, (Charlestown,) | 200 00 |
| Amicable Lodge, Cambridge, | 100 00 |
| Charles-River Bridge Corporation, | 696 44 |
| Exhibition of Statuary, by I. H. Field, | 42 00 |
| Truckman's Society, | 137 50 |
| Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, | 200 00 |
| Mechanic Apprentices Library Association, | 58 00 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Star in the East Lodge, (New Bedford,) . . | 110 00 |
| Lowell Light Infantry, . . . . . | 150 00 |
| Mechanics and other inhabitants of Lowell, . | 650 75 |

In addition to these various sums, the chairman of the committee has received some others from individuals not necessary to be detailed in this report, amounting to $3,879 61.

This sum added to the preceding amount, collected by committees, forms an aggregate of $8,094 79, which is deposited in the Globe Bank, on interest at five per cent. per annum.

Subscription books were also transmitted to other places in the commonwealth. Those sent to Charlestown, Cambridge, Roxbury, Milton, Hingham and Plymouth were placed in the hands of members of this association residing in those places respectively. Other books were transmitted to our friends in Salem, Lowell, Nantucket, New-Bedford, Springfield, Northampton, and other smaller towns; from none of which except Lowell, have any returns been presented to the committee.

The committee regret that it is not in their power to present a more favorable exposition of the state of the contributions for the patriotic and glorious purpose of completing the monument to the memory of the toils and sufferings of our sainted fathers; but they nevertheless indulge hopes that their efforts will finally prove successful. And, in conclusion, they earnestly solicit their brethren of the association, and especially those who have been designated to act on committees, to pursue this object with renewed and untiring perseverance, — confident that if they should be defeated in their present purpose, neither this nor any generation to come will witness the completion of the monument.

By direction of the committee.

JOSEPH T. BUCKINGHAM, *Chairman.*

P. S. Since the preceding report was prepared, a subscription-book has been returned from Roxbury, on which there are subscriptions amounting to $766. J. T. B.

October 10. Quarterly meeting and ninth triennial festival.

Three hundred dollars were appropriated for the support of the school for apprentices.

The Hon. Daniel Webster, proposed by the president, was unanimously admitted an honorary member.

When the ordinary business of the meeting had been despatched, a procession was formed, under the direction of Henry H. Barton, as chief marshal, and proceeded to the Old South meeting-house, where religious services were performed by the Rev. George Blagden, and an address was de-

livered by Nathaniel Greene. A hymn,* written for the occasion by Mrs. L. H. Sigorney of Hartford, was sung by the choir. The succeeding festivities were held in Faneuil Hall.

Among the guests were the first officers of the state and city, judges of courts, officers of the army and navy, four clergymen, (Messrs. Stone, Frothingham, Blagden, and Malcolm,) four merchants, (Messrs. Samuel Appleton, Abbot Lawrence, James Read, and Isaac Danforth,) strangers of distinction, writers of songs and vocal performers, &c. &c. The whole expense of the festival was about Twelve hundred dollars.

October 24. A special meeting of the government. After serious deliberation, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted: —

Whereas, at a meeting of many members of the association, on the evening of October 23, the government were requested to consider the expediency of the association visiting the Hon. Henry Clay, in a body, to offer him their salutations on his visit to this city, — and the president,

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* HYMN, BY MRS. SIGOURNEY.

Widow! — long estranged from gladness,
In thy cell so lonely made,
Where chill Penury's cloud of sadness
Adds to grief a sterner shade,
See! the searching eye hath found thee, —
Pitying hearts confess thy claim,
Bounteous spirits shed around thee
Blessings in a Saviour's name.

Orphan! — in despondence weeping,
Crushed by want and misery dire,
Or on lowly pallet sleeping,
Dreaming of thy buried sire, —
Hands, like his, shall toil to aid thee,
Stranger-arms be round thee cast,
And a Father, ever near thee,
Fit the shorn lamb to the blast.

Brethren! — by the precious token
That the sons of mercy wear,
By the vows we here have spoken,
Graved in truth, and sealed with prayer, —
Penury's dark lot we will brighten,
Misery with compassion meet,
And the heart of sorrow lighten,
Till our own shall cease to beat.

in conformity thereto, having called this meeting to consider that subject: —

*Resolved*, That, constituted as the association is, chiefly for the purposes of charity and intellectual improvement, it would be inexpedient to carry into effect the vote of the meeting referred to.

Six members voluntarily withdrew from the association. Seven members died during the year, viz: — Justin Cook, Solomon Loud, Amos B. Parker, Ebenezer Oliver, Edwin Buckingham, William McClennan, and Charles M. Dommett. Sixty persons were ballotted for and admitted as members, viz: —

Allen C. Curtis, Paper-maker.
William Curtis, Paper-maker.
William H. Wilson, Tailor.
Cyrus B. Thayer, Machinist.
Samuel Jepson, Housewright.
John Leman, jun. Shipsmith.
Charles W. Cummings, Blacksmith.
Mason Putnam, Bookbinder.
Smith W. Nichols, Bricklayer.
Charles Bond, Watch-maker.
Otis Tufts, Machinist.
Jesse Knapp, Watch-maker.
William B. Oliver, Tinman.
Henry Bowen, Printer.
Charles G. Greene, Printer.
James B. Dow, Printer.
Benjamin Lamson, Cabinet-maker.
Thomas B. Loring, Sail-maker.
Peter C. Jones, Paper-manufacturer.
Thomas J. Stone, Cordwainer.
John Merry, Cooper.
James Miller, Newton, Cabinet-maker.
George W. Boynton, Engraver.
Timothy Cotting, Medford, Baker.
Timothy Claxton, Philosophical-Instrument-maker.
Eli P. Weeman, Blacksmith.
Joshua Jacobs, Stair-builder.
James K. Frothingham, Charlestown, Portrait-Painter.
William Reed, Coach-trimmer.
Charles Evans, Housewright.
John B. Meserve, Housewright.
Jacob Pike, Housewright.
William Davis, Hingham, Pump and Block-maker.
Simon Pearson, Blacksmith.
John Hewes, Baker.
Andrew Betterly, Bricklayer.
Hazen Morse, Engraver.
James Boyd, Saddler.
Thomas Richardson, Brass-founder.
William Blake, Brass-founder.
Israel Martin, Tailor.
Lot Poole, Housewright.
Greenleaf C. Sanborn, Housewright.
William Sparrell, Architect.
Luther Nutting, Blacksmith.
Albert Clayes, Sash-maker.
Horace A. Breed, Painter and Glazier.
John G. Rogers, Type-founder.
B. Hammatt Norton, Printer.
Joseph H. Buckingham, Printer.
Thomas Ashcroft, Mill-wright.
John Shelton, Saddler.

# 1834.

January 2. Annual meeting. From the report of the committee of finance, it appeared that the income of the year 1833, added to the amount of funds on hand at the beginning of the year, was Twenty thousand three hundred and six dollars and twenty-two cents; — that the treasurer had paid out on warrants from the government, — to the committee on lectures, the committee on schools, the committee of relief, to families of deceased members, to the committee on the festival, and for contingent expenses, Three thousand one hundred and ninety-nine dollars and sixty-five cents. The whole property of the association amounted to *Seventeen thousand one hundred and six dollars and fifty-seven cents.*

The government for the year was organized as follows: —

Joseph T. Buckingham, *President.* Uriel Crocker, *Treasurer.*
Ezra Dyer, *Vice-President.* Joseph Lewis, *Secretary.*

James Davis, Charles Leighton,
Edmund Munroe, Samuel Aspinwall,
John K. Simpson, James Clark,
Jacob Amee, Thomas Edmands,
Samuel Curtis, *Trustees.*

March 27. Government meeting. The committee on lectures reported their proceedings. Twenty-one lectures had been delivered during the winter season; — by Professor Farrar 11; Dr. Smith 6; Dr. Jackson 2; L. M. Walter 1; George S. Hillard 1. Twenty dollars were paid for each lecture. The expense of the hall, including fees of a door-keeper, was Thirteen dollars an evening. Total amount of the expense Six hundred and ninety-three dollars.

June 11. Special meeting of the government. Voted, That the executive committee of this association be authorized to carry into effect the following vote, as recently expressed by the Bunker-Hill Monument Association, through their directors, viz: — "That the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association be and they hereby are empowered and

requested to proceed, under the executive committee of this corporation, to apply any money which they have collected, or may collect, to the completion of the monument, by raising the same to the elevation of 159 feet 6 inches, and that they commence the work on the seventeenth of June, current, and proceed therewith as speedily as may be done." The executive committee were also authorized to select a building committee of five members from the association. And in pursuance of this vote, Charles Wells, John P. Thorndike, George Darracott, Charles Leighton, and ——— ——— were appointed.

At the quarterly meeting in June, — intelligence of the death of General Lafayette having been received, — Messrs. Russell, Purkitt, Cotton, G. W. Otis, and Johonnot were appointed a committee to consider what measures should be adopted by the association as a tribute of respect to the memory of their worthy and revered friend and honorary member, and report at an adjourned meeting. July 24, the committee submitted the following report, which was accepted and ordered to be placed on the record: —

The committee appointed to consider what measures shall be adopted as a testimonial of respect to the memory of their late respected and venerated associate, General Lafayette, — one of the honorary members of the association, — have attended to the painful duty assigned them, and respectfully report the following resolutions: —

*Resolved*, That the members of this association have deemed it a high honor to have been associated with the late General Lafayette; and have ever considered their deceased associate, and their fellow-countryman, George Washington, as created by a benignant Providence co-operators in laying deep the foundations and raising high and strong the temples of independence, equal laws, and the rights of humanity; and that, in the death of General Lafayette, all the friends of freedom and liberal institutions have cause for profound regret and heartfelt mourning.

*Resolved*, That the Mechanic Association cannot forget, even in these sunny days of their general prosperity, the "days of small things" of themselves and their country. When without employment, they and their country looked only for relief to the favor of Heaven and their own stout hearts; — when threatening clouds obscured every quarter of their land, and every face gathered paleness; it was at this crisis, which truly tried men's souls, that a fearless French son of liberty, not twenty years old, regardless of the intreaties of near and dear relatives and the frowns

of power to detain him, accepted the invitation of a Boston mechanic, crossed the ocean in a frail barque, and protected by that Providence which never deserts the good, came to the assistance of our country, engaged in her service, fought and bled in the defence of her rights, and at various times brought those necessary implements of war with which so many of the patriot army were equipped; which were wielded with so much success by mechanic hands in the war of the revolution;—some of which arms are now preserved by veterans who wielded them in their younger days; and others, held by the descendants of the departed as the richest legacies their fathers could bequeath to them. With these recollections the Mechanic Association will not fail to revere the memory of the departed benefactor, who aided in changing those days, by his timely, efficient, and untiring efforts.

*Resolved*, That the members of this association will wear a black crape for thirty days, commencing on Sunday next, as a public token of the sense they entertain of the eminent services and sacrifices of the deceased in the cause of their country, and of their grief for the bereavement sustained by his friends and the world in his death.

*Resolved*, That the subjoined brief memoir of the life and character of the illustrious deceased, be placed on the records of the association, that it may be read at every future annual meeting,—to the end, that the successors of the present members may be impressed with the magnitude of the loss we are now called upon to deplore, and that his memory, as one of our associates, may be perpetuated, and rendered co-equal with the existence of our institution.

*Resolved*, That the government of this association be authorized and requested to procure, from an eminent artist, a full-length portrait or marble bust of the deceased General Lafayette, to be placed in the hall of the meetings of the association.

*Resolved*, That the government of the association be requested to transmit an engrossed copy of these proceedings, to George Washington Lafayette, the representative of the bereaved family of our late worthy and revered honorary member, General Lafayette; to assure them that the association, with all their brethren, deeply sympathize with them in their sorrow and deprivation, and that the entire American nation mingle their tears with their brethren in the Eastern world, and tender to them the consolation that the departed patriot of the two hemispheres has not lived in vain.

### MEMOIR OF GENERAL LAFAYETTE.

The Marquis Marie-Paul-Joseph-Roach-Yvers-Gilbert-Mottier de Lafayette, was born in France, September 6, 1757; and was married at the age of seventeen, to the Countess of the distinguished and patriotic family of Noailes. He arrived in the United States in 1777, before he had attained his twentieth year, and brought with him a supply of clothing, arms, and ammunition for our suffering army in South-Carolina. In this

memorable year he repaired to the head-quarters of the American army; was adopted by Washington as his son; received from the Continental Congress the commission of Major-General; and was severely wounded in the battle of Brandywine, fought in September. In 1778 he commanded two select corps of Light-Infantry, at the Valley Forge, in Pennsylvania, and on Rhode-Island; was engaged in numerous actions during the campaign, and his zeal and heroism in this active warfare were honorably noticed in the despatches of the discriminating Washington to Congress. Early in 1779, during a pause in the military operations, he came to Boston, embarked for France, and soon returned with the welcome tidings of promised aid from his King and Court, and with additional supplies for his new friends. He then resumed the command of his favorite corps of Light Infantry; to every officer of which he presented a valuable sword, and to every non-commissioned and private, a suitable weapon or token of his esteem and confidence. In 1780 he led this efficient and well-disciplined corps from the banks of the Hudson to Virginia; and finding them without shoes, and deficient in every thing but discipline and fidelity, he contracted, in Baltimore, a debt of nearly nine thousand dollars, to supply their necessities.

In the interesting campaign which succeeded, he encountered, with peril and frequent adverse fortune but never without courage, the veteran and well-supplied army of Lord Cornwallis. Driven to nearly his last extremity, our hero was reinforced by the main army of Washington, and a French force under Rochambeau; and in October, 1781, this proud British army surrendered prisoners of war. To the success of this glorious and decisive event, our associate very largely contributed. Another pause occurring in the military operations, he revisited France in 1782, and was in readiness again to return to his adopted country, in company with a strong fleet, and a numerous army, when news of the conclusion of the treaty of peace of that year was received, which put an end to the war, and established the independence of the United States.

In 1784 he made a third visit to the United States, at the pressing invitation of numerous friends, and all his late companions in arms. The cordial welcome with which he was greeted, — the new honors conferred upon him by Congress, and by the citizens of every section of the country, and particularly in Boston, will long live in grateful recollection. In 1787, when Boston suffered a great calamity by fire, Lafayette, then residing a thousand leagues from the scene of conflagration, did not forget his friends; but promptly transmitted more than thirteen hundred dollars to mitigate the sufferings of our houseless fellow-citizens. In 1789 he was deeply engaged in the all-absorbing revolutionary events of his native land. Nevertheless, he was not unmindful of his American brethren, and on the adoption of our excellent constitution, offered his warm and patriotic congratulations on the event, and expressed thanks to Heaven that they had unanimously intrusted their destinies to the guidance of the

great citizen, whom he, of all other men on earth, most honored, loved, and venerated.

Of all the gigantic men of the French revolution, Lafayette was pre-eminently the most noble, disinterested, and most pure. All the pages of the history of that revolution, (save only those colored with crime,) are filled with his illustrious deeds, and bear an indelible record of his ardent patriotism, moral courage, and heroic devotion to the best interests of his native country, at the risk of property, liberty, and life. By his voice in the States-General and in the National and Constitutional Assemblies; his deeds at the head of the National Guard, in the command of the revolutionary army of the North, and in all the vicissitudes of fortune, he merited and received the distinguished title of the earliest and most devoted son of "liberty and order." In 1794 he renounced his title of Marquis, and although he had commanded 400,000 National Guards, and been commander-in-chief of several armies, he has never since taken any other designation than that of general. Other events of those times need only be alluded to. History will record among the most interesting,—his perilous exertions to save the life of Louis 16th, the early friend of American liberty; his miraculous escape from the sanguinary rage of the club headed by Danton, Robespierre, and Marat; his expulsion from his country, by the tyrants which misruled France; his three years' imprisonment in the dungeons of Olmutz; the persevering efforts made by Washington and other American patriots, to liberate him; his uniform and magnanimous course under the Empire, and the fifteen years of the restoration of the Bourbons; and last, though not least, the disinterested part which he took in the three days' revolution of 1830, which placed Louis Philippe on the throne which had been offered to and refused by our departed hero.

In 1824, Lafayette visited the United States for the fourth and last time. The numerous and unanimous honors paid to the Nation's Guest, need not be recited in this memoir. They live in fresh remembrance in every heart. In these honors the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association were among the foremost of their fellow-citizens; and they remember with a sense of gratitude only excelled by their grief at his death, the affectionate and cordial manner in which he accepted their invitation to a public dinner, and the benignity with which he received their diploma of honorary membership. After a residence of many months in our delighted country, and receiving the overflowings of the hearts of millions of freemen, he returned to France in the national frigate Brandywine.

For several years before his lamented demise, he devoted most of his time to the hospitable welcome and entertainment of his numerous friends at his delightful retreat of La Grange. His marked attention to his American brethren has been acknowledged with gratitude by thousands of tongues and pens. After a long seclusion from public affairs, our lamented patriot was again called by his countrymen to their councils. At recent elections hs has been chosen a member of the Chamber of Deputies

by more than one of the departments. The interest he had always taken in the prosperity of his American country, did not cease but with his life. At the last meeting of the Chamber which his health permitted him to attend, he repelled with spirit several reflections cast on the conduct of the United States in their negociation with France; and with his last breath vindicated the justice of these claims to indemnification, which the Chambers have postponed.

He departed this life in Paris, the twentieth of May last, after a short illness, his mind retaining its usual serenity. His remains were entombed the next day, with unusual civil, municipal, and military honors. The procession was led, flanked, and brought up, by six battalions of the National Guards, six battalions of troops of the line, four squadrons of cavalry, and six pieces of artillery.

The funeral car, drawn by four horses, and shrouded with national banners, was supported by Monsieurs Lafitte, Salverte, and Barrott, of the Chamber of Deputies, and by Mr. Barton, the Charge des Affaires of the United States, in the place of Mr. Livingston, the American Minister, absent from France at the time. It was followed by the numerous and afflicted relatives of the deceased, by more than six thousand National Guards, without arms, and by a large body of foreign residents, of whom the most distinguished were the citizens of the United States. These were succeeded by the Peers and Deputies of France; by a venerable tire of old soldiers; by the officers of various departments of service; by deputations of all the scientific, benevolent, mechanical, and manufacturing societies in Paris, and by numerous citizens from other parts of France. Four of the royal carriages, (filled by high officers of state, and aids-de-camp of the King,) and a train of coaches closed the procession. An immense population thronged all the avenues through which the mournful procession passed; but the arrangements for the funeral were so well executed that nothing occurred to justify the fear which had been entertained from the numerous assemblage. All appeared to be absorbed in grief. The relatives and friends, and the American fellow-citizens of the deceased, deplored the loss of a father, friend, and benefactor; and the philanthropist of all nations, lamented the demise of the Patriot of two hemispheres, and the Hero of three revolutions.

Signed, BENJAMIN RUSSELL,
HENRY PURKITT,
JOHN COTTON,
GEORGE W. OTIS,
OLIVER JOHONNOT,
*Committee.*

JOSEPH LEWIS, *Secretary.*

Great exertions were made during the year to obtain subscriptions for the completion of the Bunker-Hill Monument. The president devoted himself to this object with great earn-

estness; but the result was not equal to justifiable expectation. The building committee, immediately after their appointment, engaged Solomon Willard, whose devotedness to the monument for several years had been well known, to superintend the work. Under his direction, workmen were engaged in quarrying and dressing stone. The amount of money drawn from the treasury, — for quarrying, hammering, and transporting stone from Quincy to the monument, for new implements and repair of old ones, for lumber, and for the superintendent's salary, from June 17, when the work was begun, to December 31, was $4,379. The executive committee had appointed S. T. Armstrong as treasurer, to receive the money obtained by the president and other agents who labored in the undertaking. At the close of the year, Mr. Armstsong reported that he had received at various times, after the seventeenth of June preceding, the following sums: —

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|---|---|---|
| June 27. | From J. T. Buckingham, | $176 00 |
| July 5. | " " | 162 00 |
| " 15. | Globe Bank, (sums deposited at sundry times by J. T. B.) | 11,401 12 |
| " 16. | J. T. Buckingham, | 141 00 |
| " 19. | Uriel Crocker, | 300 00 |
| Aug. 6. | J. T. Buckingham, | 80 00 |
| Sept. 5. | Henry Willis, (Ward 8,) | 335 00 |
| " 20. | George W. Otis, (Ward 5,) | 230 00 |
| " 25. | Daniel Messinger, (Ward 10,) | 300 00 |
| " 30. | Donation from Dr. G. C. Shattuck, by the hand of G. W. Otis, | 500 00 |
| Oct. 17. | J. T. Buckingham, | 211 00 |
| Nov. 17. | R. C. Mackay, | 25 00 |
| Dec. 1. | James Clark, (Ward 3,) | 116 94 |
| | Total moneys received, | $13,978 04 |

Though the amount of subscriptions fell far short of a sum sufficient to complete the monument, the committee expressed their belief that, "when the building should be recommenced, a generous and patriotic people would furnish ample means to raise that beautiful column to its intended elevation."

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| According to the report of the committee of finance, the treasurer had on hand, January 1, bank stock and cash, amounting to | $17,106 57 |
| And received from the secretary, — admission fees and assessments, | 1,366 50 |
| Dividends on bank stock, | 957 42 |
| Donation from Benjamin T. Pickman, | 50 00 |
| | $19,480 49 |
| During the year, the treasurer had paid to the committee of relief, | $500 00 |
| To the committee on lectures, | 736 62 |
| To the committee on schools, | 262 00 |
| To the families of deceased members, | 160 00 |
| Salary of the secretary, | 100 00 |
| Contingent expenses, | 266 60 |

The fund and available property of the association, consisting of bank stocks, cash on hand, and arrearages due from members, was Seventeen thousand four hundred and fifty-five dollars and twenty-six cents.

Four members, — George F. Kern, jun. James Barry,* Mark Weare, and James Dorety, — deceased; eleven were discharged for delinquency; and fifty-two persons were admitted, viz: —

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|---|---|
| Joseph J. Bigelow, Watch-maker. | Levi Bates, Bricklayer. |
| John Bigelow, Watch-maker. | William Munroe, Cabinet-maker. |
| Charles W. Goddard, Cooper. | Samuel Meek, Jeweler. |
| Billings Briggs, Housewright. | Charles McBurney, Saddler. |
| John Morrill, Housewright. | John Mack, Painter and Glazier. |
| Thomas Copeland, Housewright. | Jefferson C. Farrer, Painter. |
| George Davis, Housewright. | Mordecai L. Wallis, Bricklayer. |
| Samuel L. Ward, Silver-smith. | Samuel C. Nottage, Housewright. |
| Ebed Whiton, Silver-smith. | William Dow, Painter and Glazier. |

* James Barry was born in Boston, June 12, 1768, and served his apprenticeship with Arthur Langford, a cooper, at the South End of the town. His father was John Barry, and came to Boston from one of the southern states. Our associate, Barry, was deputy-inspector of beef and pork, under Stephen Bruce, the first inspector of those articles under the laws of Massachusetts. He succeeded Henry Purkitt as inspector-general of fish. No state was ever more fortunate than Massachusetts in obtaining two men of such sound judgement and incorruptible honesty. They raised the reputation of Massachusetts fish to its highest point in the commercial markets of Europe. Such as these were the "solid men of Boston," fifty years ago. Mr. Barry was the first captain of the Eagle engine at the South End. He died, February 14, 1834, in the sixty-sixth year of his age.

Samuel Lane, Housewright.
Samuel Gale, Tailor.
John Marsh, Bookbinder.
Jairus Pratt, Ship-wright.
Sewell Butterfield, Cooper.
Ezekiel D. Dyer, Gold-beater.
William Elm, Block and Pump-maker.
Stephen Rhodes, Hatter.
John Beal, Cooper.
George H. Cunningham, Housewright.
Calvin Allen, Carver
Calvin Allen, Bricklayer.
John Preston, Bricklayer.
George W. Edmands, Hatter.
James Kelley, Baker.
Ebenezer W. Lothrop, Jeweler.
George F. Gwinn, Hairdresser.
Benjamin C. Pool, Mast-maker.
Joshua Turner, Housewright.
John F. Edwards, Housewright.
Warren Thaxter, Cabinet-maker.
Alpheus Stetson, Ship-joiner.
Daniel Davis, Housewright.
James Garland, Housewright.
Levi Abell, Housewright.
Artemas Hammond, Black and White-smith.
Robert Knott, Cordwainer.
William Dove, Painter.
John P. Davenport, Hairdresser.
Thomas Goddard, Coach and Chaise-maker.
Samuel H. Newman, Tailor.
William B. Devereux, jun. Engraver.
Freeman Hunt, Printer.
Lewis Dennis, Bricklayer.

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# 1835.

Annual meeting, January 1. After the reception and disposal of the customary reports of committees, the following officers were elected: —

Stephen Fairbanks, *President.*
John Rayner, *Vice-President.*
Uriel Crocker, *Treasurer.*
Joseph Lewis, *Secretary.*

Charles Leighton,
Jacob Amee,
Samuel Curtis,
James Clark,
Thomas Edmands,
Ephraim Harrington,
William Adams,
Samuel Aspinwall,
James Barry,*
*Trustees.*

A communication from the young men composing the apprentices' library association was made to the government, February 12, and is embraced in the subjoined report: —

The committee on the library, presuming a report on that institution would be highly gratifying to the government and the association, re-

* Son of James Barry, who died in 1834.

quested of the officers a full statement of its present affairs, condition and prospects, which request has been by them promptly complied with, and is herewith submittted.

This document, in the opinion of your committee, is well drawn up, and presents a pleasing picture of the library, of the manly exercises of the members in lecturing and debating on various subjects, of its cabinet of natural history, — of the increase of books, magazines and newspapers, — and of a laudable spirit manifested by the members to sustain and wholly support this useful institution.

In reference to the banner mentioned by them, your committee presume that the members of that institution will, on reflection, see the impropriety of its being unfurled on any political occasion, except when all parties can unite.

Your committee, feeling that this document from the Apprentices' Library Association ought to be preserved, would recommend that it be accepted, placed on record, and read at the next quarterly meeting of the association, being fully of the opinion, that the account of the library, thus given, will be not only highly gratifying to the members of our association, but excite in them a stronger, and, it is hoped, permanent attachment for the institution, and induce them to aid and encourage the apprentices in their laudable undertaking.

All which is respectfully submitted by the committee.

*To the Government of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association.*

Gentlemen, — At the request of the library committee, we present you with a statement of the condition of the Apprentices' Library and the general operations of the association which conducts it, from the time it was committed to the sole charge and expense of the apprentices in April, 1832. We beg leave to draw your attention to the subject under the following heads, viz. The library, reading department, exercises, members, and miscellaneous improvements.

1. *The Library.* — At the separation, we credited you in the schedule with 1,920 volumes upon the shelves, together with fifty odd volumes, and a box and trunk which contained forty-seven more, and a lot of old pamphlets.

A committee was appointed to revise the library, and make out an entire new catalogue on the most improved plan. They were at the same time authorized to lay aside such volumes as they should consider useless, — which they did, to the number of 228, consisting of odd volumes, school books, such as arithmetics, reading books, &c. &c. — books of which we had several copies, and those which they thought might be exchanged for others more valuable and useful. This, although it reduced the number on the shelves down to 1,692, did not decrease the value of the library; for, being mostly such as were given by the public "merely because they were volumes," they encumbered the shelves without being of any use, and worse still, occupying room which, as the library

was constantly increasing, was needed for works of more importance. The books were sold in the room among the members, and about twenty-five dollars was realized. An order was passed that the money should be expended for the purchase of new works, and several of much value and interest were thus added. There has been added since April, 1832, about two hundred volumes, mostly by donation and the remainder by purchase; a considerable sum has also been expended in re-binding books which have been much used. We presume that the total number of volumes at present, making allowance for some that are occasionally lost, is about 1,850; but no term has yet passed since we have been connected with the institution but what some volumes have been added. This gradual increase, if it is permitted to continue uninterrupted, must one day constitute this library a valuable treasure of literature.

2. *Reading Department.* — We receive regularly about twenty different newspapers, furnished by the liberality of the publishers; and several valuable magazines, such as the American and Penny Magazines, Mechanic, Annals of Education, &c. &c. The magazines we preserve with an intention of binding, which creates an additional source of increase to the library. Our room is open every Tuesday and Saturday evening, when the apprentices resort to it to get books, and spend an hour or two in reading the papers and magazines. They seem of late to have taken much interest in this branch of our institution, for, as the papers are regularly filed, they have an opportunity to acquire a knowledge of the events of the day, which many of them cannot elsewhere.

3. *Exercises.* — During the present and two previous winters, we have conducted a course of exercises, thus uniting the lyceum system of improvement with our other means of acquiring knowledge. The members have entered into this plan with a spirit which would honor older heads; — much talent has been exhibited which would not otherwise have been drawn out.

These exercises have consisted: — 1st. Of Lectures, which have been delivered upon natural history, natural philosophy, the arts, sciences, history, biography, and moral subjects. The most of them have been delivered by members, several by other friends of the institution. 2d. Debates have been introduced at suitable intervals between the lectures on various subjects of usefulness and interest. An introductory lecture is delivered at the commencement of the course and a valedictory, containing an abstract and sum total of the whole at the close.

In addition to this course, a class in elocution is generally organized in the spring at the close of the lectures, and the members, by thus meeting together in a social circle, become intimately acquainted with one another, and by throwing aside all restraint usually imposed upon them in more public places, acquire a confidence and freedom which is afterwards useful. It has been our custom for several years past to celebrate the anniversary of the establishment of the library, on the twenty-second of February, when a member is appointed to deliver an address, in some

public place, on the nature and character of the institution, and on one or two occasions an original poem has been produced.

We could give you extracts from several notices of these exercises which have appeared in print, — but we rather desire you would form your own opinion of them from actual observation.

4. *Members.* — The number of apprentices who enjoy these privileges is constantly fluctuating. Just before the separation, when you paid the expenses, and the members paid only twenty-five cents per year, there were about 260 who belonged; but as soon as we undertook to carry it on at our own expense, the number was greatly diminished. We found it necessary to set the price at one dollar per year, and at the next semi-annual meeting, in September, there were but 60 members. In March following (being nearly one year after we incurred its expenses) there were 105; and we have found that our annual average is about 125. This being the only source of revenue that we could safely rest upon, (donations in money seldom if ever occurring,) we were under the necessity of adopting a most rigorous system of economy, in order to keep our expenditures within the means of discharge, and to our credit it can be said, we have never been involved in debt, like most similar and even older societies. We deemed it better to add but little to the library by purchase, rather than fail to make provisions for its current expenses.

The number of members in September last had sunk to 98; but, owing to causes which we shall shortly explain, it has now risen to about 140, — a larger number than has been known since April, 1832.

5. *Miscellaneous Improvements.* — Under this head, for the sake of conciseness, we shall notice the general operations of the association.

The most important alteration in our circumstances is the substitution of a suitable room for the inconvenient ones which we had previously occupied. In October, 1832, we removed the library from the small room in Congress-street, to No. 3 Cornhill, where we were much better accommodated, and which we occupied for two years and upwards; but last November, being obliged to vacate that room, and also feeling it our duty, as we had been successful thus far, to do all in our power to extend the benefits of the institution, we came to a conclusion, after a calm and considerate deliberation, to engage the room which we at present occupy. In making this move, we were deeply sensible of the responsibilities which we should incur, but trusting in the co-operation of the apprentices of Boston, and the influence of their masters, we attempted it, and have as yet had no reason to deprecate our proceeding. We issued a circular to the master mechanics of the city, setting forth the great advantages which their apprentices might enjoy, and urging them to persuade all to come and join us. This call was soon answered by an increase of members, as we stated under that head, and we have yet hopes that the number will considerably augment. We see no reason why its benefits should be confined to so small a number when there are so many apprentices in the city. We have now a room as convenient as any in the city,

and the accommodations for the books, newspapers, lectures, &c. are such as we feel completely satisfied with; — our only want is want of members, — if we have enough of them, the money requisite for its support will doubtless come with them.

In the month of February, 1833, a small collection of minerals was presented to the association, and the government thinking that by a little exertion many more could be added, determined upon the formation of a cabinet of natural history, &c. Accordingly resolutions were passed, requesting the members to contribute such specimens in mineralogy, conchology, together with coins and curiosities, as they might be able to give; and the result is that we have now a collection which is not only an ornament to the room, but we trust also valuable.

In the summer of 1833, after your association had determined to raise subscriptions to the Bunker-Hill monument, our members, wishing to follow the public-spirited example which you had set, passed resolutions at one of their meetings, to contribute such a sum as they might be able to collect; and not desiring to confine within the narrow limits of our own society, a public meeting of the apprentices of Boston was called at the Old Common Council Room. Several hundred notifications were printed, and the members of the board acted as a committee to distribute them in every quarter of the city. But after all these exertions, we were much disappointed at the result. At the evening of the meeting very few appeared except our own members, and the sum of fifty-eight dollars, which was afterwards collected and sent in, was raised with but little assistance from those not members of our association.

We trust also that something of that spirit of charity, which is displayed by your association, also animates ours, — for they last autumn contributed five dollars for the relief of two apprentices to one of your members who were injured by a fire in Water-street. We have sometimes, by invitation, joined in the public celebrations of the Fourth of July — and on the last occurrence of that day, the association was presented with a neat and appropriate banner, the gift of several of the members.

The members have always been jealous of an infraction of the provisos. On one occasion a question was agitated, whether a member leaving the city before his year had expired, had a right to transfer his privilege to any other person until his return; but an elaborate report on the subject was made, setting forth that it was inconsistent both with our own rules and the provisos.

Another time a person was found enjoying the library who was over twenty-one years of age, although he had not concluded his apprenticeship: but, as soon as this fact came to the knowledge of the association, resolutions were passed against it, notwithstanding he was at that time a valuable and esteemed member.

Such is a statement of the condition of an institution which owes its present existence to your liberality, and the only one probably in the country which is conducted exclusively by the apprentices. If we have

spoken of our association with too much of self-approbation, you must impute it to zeal in a cause in which we have been interested for upwards of six years, — from the time when members were permitted merely to get books and then requested to retire, on account of the small size of the room, down to the present period, when they meet to converse, to read, and participate in exercises instituted for the improvement of their minds, and elevation of their character.

Approved by the government.

Signed, GEORGE D. MILES, *President.*
BENJAMIN F. REEVES, *Vice-President.*

Attest, WILLIAM PRATT, *Secretary.*

*Boston, February* 6, 1835.

At the close of the lecture season in March, the committee reported that eighteen lectures had been delivered — by Judge Story, Lieutenant Park of the United States army, Messrs. Edward Everett, John Pickering, Jared Sparks, Caleb Cushing, George S. Hillard, Dr. J. V. C. Smith, and Dr. C. T. Jackson, at an expense of Five hundred and ninety-six dollars.

A communication from the Salem Charitable Mechanic Association, produced a reply, embracing the following resolution: — Resolved, That, in the opinion of this association, it will be highly beneficial to the interest and respectability of the mechanics generally to decline giving employment to any apprentice, who may have left the service of his master without good and sufficient cause, and it is hereby earnestly recommended to each and every member of this association to decline receiving into favor any apprentice who may have violated his engagements with his previous employer."

The entire receipts of the year were Two thousand one hundred and eighty-five dollars and sixty-six cents, — including a donation of Forty dollars from Ephraim Marsh, one of the elder members of the association, — one of Twenty dollars from Judge Story, and one of the same amount from Mr. Sparks, — being the amount paid to each of the two last mentioned gentlemen, respectively, for their services as lecturers. The whole expenditure, for schools, lectures, funerals, charities, and ordinary contingencies, was One thousand six hundred and seventy-eight dollars and forty-six cents; — leav-

ing a balance of Five hundred and seven dollars and twenty cents.

Five members died, — John B. Andrews, James C. Bangs, George Marsh, Francis Southack, and Nathaniel Howe. Thirty-four persons were admitted: —

William P. Brown, Housewright.
Enos Litchfield, Housewright.
Aaron D. Webber, Housewright.
Samuel Rowe, Housewright.
Abner Bourne, Housewright.
Leopold Herman, Stove-manufacturer.
Edward Maxwell, Bricklayer.
Jotham Wade, Bricklayer.
Charles Pierce, Bricklayer.
Cyrus Hastings, Painter.
Joseph Belcher, Painter.
Horatio G. Somerby, Painter.
Nathaniel N. Bates, House and Ship-joiner.
Otis Munroe, Cordwainer.
Josiah Thomas, Cordwainer.
Edward Wheeler, jun. Hatter.
Henry N. Hooper, Brass-founder.
Aaron Mann, Hatter.
Calvin Haskell, Blacksmith.
Amos C. Sanborn, Stone-cutter.
Abner W. Pollard, Tailor.
John B. Phelps, Cordwainer.
Samuel G. Perkins, Housewright.
Stephen Clark, Housewright.
George Passarow, Painter.
Thomas M. Howard, Bricklayer.
Isaac H. Hazelton, Bricklayer.
Theophilus Burr, Housewright.
Charles Dupee, Housewright.
Benjamin Burchstead, Shipwright.
Metcalf Clark, Silver-smith.
Sewell Phelps, Printer.
Edward G. Tead, Sail-maker.
Robert E. Ruthven, Brass-turner.

Messrs. John Davis of Worcester, (governor,) and Theodore Lyman of Boston, were admitted honorary members.

The committee of finance, in closing their yearly report, say, they "offer their sincere congratulations to their associates for the distinguished blessings we have enjoyed the past year, — a year in which, it is believed, the members have enjoyed individually and collectively, their full share of the prosperity which has pervaded the whole community, and an ample return for the exercise of their skill and industry. Considering the number of our associates, the deaths during the past year have been remarkably few, — which blessing alone speaks to us, in language that cannot be misunderstood, that we are engaged in avocations which are no less healthful to the body than they are peaceful to the mind."

# 1836.

Annual meeting, January 7. From the report of the committee of finance, it appears that the receipts of the treasury amounted to Four thousand one hundred and thirty-six dollars and two cents. The expenditure for the lectures, the school, relief of indigent members, claims of the families of deceased members, arrangements of the festival, secretary's salary, and contingent expenses, amounted to Three thousand two hundred and sixty-nine dollars and thirty-one cents; — leaving a balance of Eight hundred and sixty-six dollars and seventy-one cents in favor of the association. There was due from members in assessments, at the close of the year, One thousand one hundred and forty-six dollars.

Officers elected for the year: —

Stephen Fairbanks, *President.* Uriel Crocker, *Treasurer.*
John Rayner, *Vice-President.* Joseph Lewis, *Secretary.*

James Clark, James Barry,
Thomas Edmands, Gardner Greenleaf,
Samuel Aspinwall, James L. Homer,
Ephraim Harrington, Ezra Hawkes,
William Adams, *Trustees.*

That provision of the constitution which designated the Fourth of July as the day for a quarterly meeting, was found to operate inconveniently, and the following change was made, after going through the customary forms: "The meetings of the association shall be held on the first Thursday of October, January, April, and July, at such time and place as the government shall direct. But should any public event occur on the day appointed for either of said meetings, the president, with the advice of the government, may call the meeting on a prior or subsequent day."

A report from the executive committee on the Bunker-Hill Monument, together with the treasurer's account, was read from the chair, laid on the table, and ordered to be printed. At a subsequent meeting it was voted, that the government appoint a committee of fifty members, to solicit further subscriptions for the completion of the monument.

At a special meeting, September 22, it was voted, that the president and vice-president, with Messrs. Dutton, Homer, James Clark, and Buckingham, be a committee to report on the expediency of establishing, in this city, an annual Fair, for the encouragement of manufactures and the mechanic arts, and the awarding of premiums.

The tenth triennial festival was held on the sixth of October, at which the usual number of guests, official personages and strangers of distinction were invited. After despatching the ordinary business of a quarterly meeting, the procession moved from Concert Hall to the Odeon, where the customary services took place. The address was delivered by James L. Homer, one of the trustees. The dinner was prepared at Faneuil Hall, and, as usual, was enlivened with speeches, song and sentiment.*

Several gentlemen, concerned in manufactures, and others, who were proprietors and editors of newspapers, had been proposed for membership and had unanimously passed the government, in the usual form. When they were brought before the association to be balloted for, objection was made to their admission, on the ground that *they were not mechanics*, nor *manufacturers*, according to the customary use of those terms. One of the gentlemen was balloted for, and rejected. The others were withdrawn. Whereupon a committee was directed to "consider who were proper subjects to be candidates for admission to the association."

Thirty-four persons were balloted for and admitted: —

John Roberts, Housewright.
Theodore Mitchell, Housewright.
William R. Carnes, Cabinet-maker.
Lyman G. Cushing, Carver.
George D. Wyman, Painter.
Richard J. Crocker, Sail-maker.
Nathan P. Kingsley, Plasterer.
Edwin Barnes, Tailor.
Gardner P. Drury, Steam-Engine builder.
Benjamin Brown, jun. Shipwright.
Thomas Lyford, Housewright.
Francis W. R. Emery, Housewright.
John B. Place, Housewright.
Luther W. Dunbar, Housewright.
Charles Lincoln, jun. Hatter.

* Mr. Homer's address was a sound and sensible discussion upon matters of practical importance. He urged, particularly, the establishment of a Fair and Exhibition of manufactures; and spoke with great earnestness upon the advantages that might thence arise to the association.

Ferdinand Herman, Fancy-Basket-maker.
Dexter Harlow, Hatter.
Roland Cutter, Cordwainer.
Noah Blanchard, Cordwainer.
Benjamin F. Butler, Blacksmith.
Ebenezer Wyman, Blacksmith.
Stephen L. Gould, Piano-forte-manufacturer.
George W. Light, Printer.
Lawrence Nichols, Confectioner.
Christopher C. Barney, Bricklayer.
William L. Lewis, Printer.
Benjamin Bradlee, Bookbinder.
Eber Taylor, Housewright.
Arthur French, Manufacturer.
Henry Stowell, Bricklayer.
Caleb Stowell, Bricklayer.
Robert Andrews, Copper-plate-printer.
Obadiah Rich, Silver-smith.
William G. Cutter, Chaise-maker.
Isaac B. Wait, Cordwainer.
William Harrington, Bricklayer.
Freeman L. Cushman, Housewright.

One member, having "been convicted of an infamous crime," was expelled from the association.

Six members deceased, viz:—Ephraim Thayer, Samuel Pratt, John Y. Champney, William Hilliard,* James Bowen, and John Mead. The funeral donation to the widow of James Bowen was returned as a contribution to the fund.

Mr. Abbott Lawrence was admitted an honorary member.

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## 1837.

Annual meeting, January 5. The government for the year was organized by the choice of,—

Stephen Fairbanks, *President.*
John Rayner, *Vice-President.*
Uriel Crocker, *Treasurer.*
John Gorham Rogers, *Secretary.*

William Adams,
Ephraim Harrington,
James Barry,
Gardner Greenleaf,
James L. Homer,
Joseph Lewis,
Joseph Tilden,
Thomas J. Shelton,
Walter Frost,
*Trustees.*

* William Hilliard was the son of the Rev. Timothy Hilliard of Cambridge. He was a printer by profession, and carried on the business of printing and bookselling in Cambridge, for a number of years. He was afterwards of the firm of Cummings & Hilliard, booksellers in Boston. He was a deacon of the first congregational church in Cambridge, and served the town in sundry municipal offices, and was once or twice a representative in the Legislature.

This year will stand pre-eminent in the annals of the association, as one in which was the largest accession of members, — an unusual increase of the funds, — and, more than all, by "an exhibition of the productions of American artizans, surpassing in splendor and interest all other exhibitions of the kind ever attempted in this country."

Pursuant to the vote passed in September, 1836, the committee then appointed, made a report at the annual meeting, January 5, the following extracts from which exhibit their views in regard to the expediency of establishing a course of exhibitions and fairs, adapted to the promotion of improvement in manufactures and the mechanic arts. After adverting to the progress and success of similar exhibitions in New-York and Philadelphia, the report says, —

Your committee are strongly impressed with the importance of exhibitions of this nature, where native talent is drawn forth — the first opening bud of genius indicated and encouraged. They enable mechanics to become better acquainted with each other, and make them, — what they always should be, — a band of brothers, all striving, by honorable competition, to excel each other in their respective works. In an especial manner do they make mechanics and their products better known to the public, to whom they are beholden for patronage and encouragement. Your committee contend that it is for the interest of every individual of this association, in *dollars and cents*, to establish and encourage an annual Fair in Boston. . . . . Our association numbers between six and seven hundred members, embracing mechanics of every profession, — many of them of great wealth, and of a high order of talent. There is wealth enough; power enough, physical and intellectual; ingenuity enough, to plan, arrange, open and present to the public, an exhibition that will rival, — and, may we not hope, if spiritedly commenced, excel, — any former display of the kind in this country. All we require is a little of that ENTERPRIZE for which the good people of Boston have been so justly celebrated. We are confident the public will sustain us, if we but assume the responsibility of offering premiums. . . . . If properly and liberally commenced, your committee predict that the project cannot fail of success, surrounded, as we are, by a dense mechanical and manufacturing population.

It has been spoken of as a reproach to New-England, and Boston has had her share of the censure, — that nothing has been done by her leading men to indicate [justify?] the pride we all profess for yankee ingenuity and skill, two qualities of which we are very tenacious, and of which we are always ready to boast. Let us do something to wipe away this reproach. Fairs, wherever they are exhibited, attract thousands of admiring spectators; and it cannot be doubted that the whole country is

sensibly benefited by the concentration of inventive talent and mechanical skill annually found at them. Let us make one experiment, at least; and the day of the Fair will be a proud one for Boston and her mechanics.

Your committee . . . . recommend that the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association hold a Fair in the fall of 1837, in some central and convenient place in the city of Boston; that the government, with twelve additional members to be taken from the association at large, constitute a committee, with full power to make the necessary arrangements for the same; that there be appropriated such sums of money as may be required to defray the necessary expenses, and to pay for premiums and diplomas to be awarded for the best specimens of American ingenuity and skill, in every branch of mechanics, rare and valuable productions natural and artificial, labor-saving machines, implements of husbandry, and models of machinery in all their variety, — and for superior workmanship in all useful and ornamental branches of the arts, including the beautiful and delicate handiwork of females in every department of industry.

Your committee are unanimously of opinion, that an annual Fair may be established in the metropolis of New-England, which shall excite as much successful and honorable competition as exists in New-York, Philadelphia, and other cities, — be an honor to our association, — a pride to our city, — worthy the patronage of a liberal and discriminating public — and a permanent benefit to the whole body of the mechanics of Boston. The members of our association alone have the power to make a brilliant and glorious display, by the products of their own workshops; but, in addition to their own efforts, hundreds, nay, thousands of the ingenious minds and industrous hands of the daughters and sons of New-England will contribute liberally to increase the interest and value of the exhibition.

This report was printed and distributed to the members; and, on the nineteenth of January, it was unanimously accepted. The sum of Five thousand dollars was appropriated to pay the necessary expenses. The government, consisting of thirteen members, with twelve members to be added by the government, were constituted a board of managers, with power to increase this number, to carry into effect the intent of the association. The members added by the government were Joseph T. Buckingham, George Darracott, James Clark, Henry W. Dutton, Charles A. Wells, William S. Pendleton, Thomas Boyd, William Underwood, Henry H. Barton, Henry Bailey, Jonas Chickering, and Nathaniel Bryant.

January 26, the managers held their first meeting and adopted a plan of organization, embracing committees of ar-

rangements, on premiums, on finance, on diplomas, &c. A circular was prepared, and distributed extensively throughout New England, inviting contributions, and stating the rules and regulations. In consequence of an advertisement, seven designs for a diploma were presented, without the names of the artists; that which was selected was ascertained to be the production of Thomas Boyd, one of the members of the association. It was engraved on steel, by George G. Smith, also a member. A design for a medal was from a gentleman connected with the United States Mint at Philadelphia.

Charles A. Wells and Henry H. Barton, acting under authority from the board of managers, visited the principal manufacturing towns in New-England, to invite contributions. On his return, Mr. Wells made a full report of his journey, by which it appeared that he was received with great attention, and with assurance, from all whom he had visited, that the Fair would meet with general approbation throughout New-England. Mr. Barton concurred with Mr. Wells in a similar account of his reception.

The managers proceeded with untiring vigor. Weekly meetings were held, and committees were appointed to visit various places, to explain the objects of the association and to solicit contributions from all branches of manufacturing and mechanic art, and such productions in the fine arts, and in works of ingenuity, as would give interest to the exhibition. On the eighteenth of September the Exhibition and Fair commenced. The doors of Faneuil Hall were thrown open, and presented a beautiful scene. The large area was covered with tables, laden with the substantial fabrics of the woolen and cotton manufactories, and the more delicate products of female ingenuity and taste. The galleries were filled with cabinet wares, and hung with tapestry, carpeting, and various and fanciful productions of the needle and the loom. The walls were nearly covered with pictures exhibiting the skill of the painter and the taste of the gilder in gorgeous frame-work. Leaving Faneuil Hall, the visiters crossed a bridge which had been built across the square between that edifice and Quincy Hall. Here was an array of machinery

and tools, — the helps and means of the mechanic, — displayed on either side of the hall, extending to the length of two hundred and twenty-five feet. "Here (say the committee in their report,) were sources of protracted enjoyment to all who could fathom the mysterious applications of wheels, screws, and levers. The steam-engine was busily at work in forcing other machinery to accomplish, in a few moments, the most tedious and difficult labor; while other machines, worked by hand, showed the facility with which modern ingenuity could supplant the more simple but time-exhausting processes of previous ages. Some of these were too complicated to admit of ready comprehension; — others had demanded the utmost stretch of invention to produce simplicity. All were interesting, as evidence of talent, exerted for the benefit of mankind. If accuracy and perfection of workmanship were sought, they were to be found, not only in the machinery but in the tools displayed in every part of the hall; — all bearing testimony to the most satisfactory progress in mechanical construction and manipulation."

The city and the country poured forth their population, to see the wonderful display. People were surprized at every step with some new contrivance, and puzzled and bewildered in contemplation of the whole, but manifesting unqualified pleasure and exultation. The Fair was visited by delegates from associations in Philadelphia, New-York, Providence, Portland, and Portsmouth.

The amount of money received during the exhibition, for admissions, was *Twelve thousand five hundred and seven dollars and seventy-seven cents.* Including the tickets to members of the association and their families, and the admission of contributors, it was calculated that more than *seventy thousand* persons visited the Fair. The throng of spectators was not sensibly diminished from the opening to the close.

The experiment was so successful that the managers recommended an early preparation for a similar exhibition the next year.

On the evening of September 20, an address was delivered to the association, on the occasion of their first Exhibition and

Fair, by the Hon. Edward Everett, then governor of the commonwealth. In his reply to the committee who requested a copy of the address for publication, Mr. Everett said, — "It is scarcely necessary to observe, that it [the address] is by no means to be considered a philosophical treatise, exhausting the subject, and worthy the nature of the student, but as a series of reflections and illustrations of a somewhat desultory character, designed for delivery before a popular audience, and mostly thrown together amidst numerous pressing avocations." The address, however, was a splendid composition and every way worthy of its learned author. It was full of eloquent passages, of which the following may serve as a specimen: —

In reference to the intimate connection of the useful and mechanic arts with intellectual progress, let us for a moment to the mariner's compass, the telescope, the quadrant. For myself, I never reflect upon their influence on the affairs of man, and remember that they are, after all, merely mechanical contrivances, without emotions of admiration bordering upon awe. This sentiment, I know, is so worn away by habit, that it seems almost to me an unsentimentality. But let us not be ashamed to repeat the emotions that spring from the freshness of truth and nature. What must not have been Galileo's feelings when he pointed the first telescope to the heavens, and discovered the phases of Venus and the moons of Jupiter. When I behold the touched needle trembling to the pole, — when I know that beneath the utter blackness of the midnight storm, when every star in heaven is quenched, and the laboring vessel in mid-ocean reels like a drunken man on the crested top of the mighty waves, that little bar of steel will guide the worn and staggering helmsman on his way, — I feel that there is a holy philosophy in the arts of life, which, if I cannot comprehend, I can reverence.

Consider the influence on the affairs of men, in all their relations, of the invention of the little machine which I hold in my hand, and the other modern instruments for the measurement of time, various specimens of which are on exhibition in the halls. To say nothing of the importance of an accurate measurement of time in astronomical observations, — nothing of the application of time-keepers to the purposes of navigation, — how vast must be the aggregate effect on the affairs of life, throughout the civilized world, and in the progress of ages, of a convenient and portable apparatus for measuring the lapse of time! — Who can calculate in how many of those critical junctures when affairs of weightiest import hang upon the issue of an hour, Prudence and Forecast have triumphed over blind Casualty, by being enabled to measure with precision the flight of time, in its smallest subdivisions! Is it not something more than mere

mechanism, which watches with us by the sick-bed of some dear friend, through the livelong solitude of night, enables us to count, in the slackening pulse, nature's trembling steps toward recovery, and to administer the prescribed remedy at the precise, perhaps the critical, moment of its application? By means of a watch, punctuality in all his duties, — which, in its perfection, is one of the incommunicable attributes of Deity, — is brought, in no mean measure, within the reach of man. He is enabled, if he will be guided by this half-rational machine, creature of a day as he is, to imitate that sublime precision which leads the earth, after a circuit of five hundred millions of miles, back to the solstice at the appointed moment, without the loss of one second, no, not the millionth part of a second, for the ages on ages during which it has traveled that empyreal road. What a miracle of art, that a man can teach a few brass wheels, and a little piece of elastic steel, to out-calculate himself; to give him a rational answer to one of the most important questions which a being traveling toward eternity can ask! What a miracle, that a man can put within this little machine a spirit that measures the flight of time with greater accuracy than the unassisted intellect of the profoundest philosopher; which watches and moves when sleep palsies alike the hand of the maker and the mind of the contriver, nay, when the last sleep has come over them both! I saw the other day, at Stockbridge, the watch which was worn on the eighth of September, 1755, by the unfortunate Baron Dieskau, who received his mortal wound on that day, near Lake George, at the head of his army of French and Indians, on the breaking out of the seven years' war. This watch, which marked the fierce, feverish moments of the battle as calmly as it has done the four-score years which have since elapsed, is still going; but the watch-maker and baron have now for more than three fourths of a century been gone where time is no longer counted. Frederick the Great was another and a vastly more important personage of the same war. His watch was carried away from Potsdam by Napoleon, who, on his rock in mid-ocean, was wont to ponder on the hours of alternate disaster and triumph, which filled up the life of his great fellow-destroyer, and had been equally counted on its dial-plate. The courtiers used to say, that this watch stopped of its own accord, when Frederick died. Short-sighted adulation! for if it stopped at his death, as if time was no longer worth measuring, it was soon put in motion, and went on, as if nothing had happened. Portable watches were probably introduced into England in the time of Shakspeare; and he puts one into the hand of his fantastic jester, as the text of his morality. In truth, if we wished to borrow from the arts a solemn monition of the vanity of human things, the clock might well give it to us. How often does it not occur to the traveler in Europe, as he hears the hour told from some ancient steeple, — that iron tongue in the tower of yonder old cathedral, unchanged itself, has had a voice for every change in the fortune of nations! It has chimed monarchs to their thrones, and knelled them to their tombs; and, from its watch-tower in the clouds, has, with the same

sonorous and impartial stoicism, measured out their little hour of sorrow and gladness to coronation and funeral, abdication and accession, revolution and restoration; victory, tumult, and fire: — and, with like faithfulness, while I speak, the little monitor by my side warns me back from my digression, and bids me beware lest I devote too much of my brief hour, even to its own commendation.

. . . . . .

Perfect as the steam engine seems, it is a general persuasion that we are in the rudiments of its economical uses. The prodigious advances made in the arts of locomotion teach nothing more clearly than the probability, that they will be rendered vastly more efficient. The circulation of ideas by means of the press is probably destined to undergo great enlargement. Analytical chemistry has, within the last thirty years, acquired instruments which enable the philosopher to unlock mysteries of nature before unconceived of. Machinery of all kinds, and for every purpose, is daily simplified and rendered more efficient. Improved manipulations are introduced into all the arts, and each and all of these changes operate as efficient creative causes of further invention and discovery. — Besides all that may be hoped for by the diligent and ingenious use of the materials for improvement afforded by the present state of the arts, the progress of science teaches us to believe that principles, elements, and powers, are in existence and operation around us, of which we have a very imperfect knowledge, perhaps no knowledge whatever. Commencing with the mariner's compass in the middle ages, a series of discoveries has been made connected with magnetism, electricity, galvinism, the polarity of light, and the electro-magnetic phenomena which are occupying so much attention at the present day, all of which are more or less applicable to the useful arts, and which may well produce the conviction that, if in some respects we are at the meridian, we are in other respects in the dawn of science. In short, all art, as I have said, is a creation of the mind of man; — an essence of infinite capacity for improvement. And it is of the nature of every intelligence endowed with *such* a capacity, however mature in respect to the past, to be at all times, in respect to the future, in a state of hopeful infancy. However vast the space measured behind, the space before is immeasurable; and though the mind may estimate the progress it has made, the boldest stretch of its powers is inadequate to measure the progress of which it is capable.

Let me say, then, Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Mechanic Association, PERSEVERE. Do any ask what you have done, and what you are doing for the public good; send them to your exhibition rooms, and let them see the walls of the temple of American Liberty fitly covered with the products of American Art. And while they gaze with admiration on these creations of the mechanical arts of the country, bid them remember that they are the productions of a people whose fathers were told by the British ministry they should not manufacture a hob-nail! Does any one ask in disdain for the great names which have illustrated

mechanic arts; tell him of Arkwright and Watt, of Franklin, of Whit- and Fulton, whose memory will dwell in the grateful recollections osterity, when the titled and laureled destroyers of mankind shall be embered only with detestation. — Mechanics of America, respect your ing, respect yourselves. The cause of human improvement has no er or more powerful friends. In the great Temple of Nature, whose dation is the earth, — whose pillars are the eternal hills, —whose roof e star-lit sky, — whose organ-tones are the whispering breeze and the ding storm, — whose architect is God, — there is no ministry more ed than that of the intelligent mechanic!

Before the address, the following hymn, written by the r. John Pierpont, was sung by a select choir: —

Not with a conqueror's song
Thy courts, O God, we throng,
  For battles gained;
No cannon's sulphurous throat,
No trumpet gives its note,
No banners o'er us float,
  With fresh blood stained.

Over no captive kings
Our eagle spreads her wings,
  Or whets her beak;
Nor, o'er the battle plain,
Where death-shot fell like rain,
Where lie in gore the slain,
  Comes her shrill shriek.

For Art, which thou hast given,
The tribute, due to Heaven,
  We come to pay;
Art, that, to deck her halls,
On air and vapor calls,
On winds and waterfalls,
  And all obey; —

Art, that, from shore to shore,
Moves, without sail or oar,
  'Gainst winds and tides;
Or, high o'er earth and seas,
Sits in her car at ease,
And, heavenward, on the breeze
  Triumphant rides; —

Art, that, through mountain bars,
Breaks, that her horseless cars,
  Self-moved, may go;
And, without looking back,
Rolls, on her iron track,
Where the white cataract
  Thunders below; —

ART, that, on spool or reel,
Winds the smooth silk or steel,
  Spun by her hand;
Then, with her touch of fire,
Draws, from the chord or wire,
Tones that an angel choir
  Well might demand; —

ART, that, to thee, MOST HIGH,
Gladly doth sanctify
  Her works and powers:
Lord, ere our tongues are still,
Our hands forget their skill,
To thy most holy will
  Devote we ours.

The address was printed with the reports of the managers and the gentlemen who were judges upon the various articles in the Fair, and the awards of the committee on premiums.

The gross sum of expenditures for this Exhibition and Fair was Twelve thousand and seventeen dollars and forty-six cents, which, deducted from the receipts, left Seven hundred and thirty three dollars and nineteen cents, to be added to the funds of the association.

The want of a hall, suitable for the meetings of the association, continued a theme of debate at almost every meeting, and was *talked about* with great earnestness. At the first meeting in the year, Messrs. Darracott, Thorndike, Jenkins, Buckingham, and Hammond were appointed a committee to ascertain whether any suitable site for a hall could be purchased. This committee reported, January 19, and their report, on motion of James L. Homer, was laid on the table. Mr. Homer then submitted a resolution, That the association "are now prepared to purchase a site, on which to erect a hall." On motion of Lot Pool, the consideration of this resolution was postponed. It was again taken up, February 2, and, after a long debate, was adopted. The report of the committee was taken up, debated and amended, and again laid upon the table. It was then voted, on motion of Mr. Buckingham, "that a committee of twenty-five be appointed to provide ways and means to meet the necessary expenditure, &c. &c. as recommended in the report just laid upon the table; and the following members were appointed: — Stephen

Fairbanks, Henry W. Dutton, Uriel Crocker, Ephraim Harrington, Gardner Greenleaf, William S. Pendleton, Nathaniel Cotton, Enoch Snelling, Charles Leighton, Benjamin Beal, J. L. C. Amee, James Clark, George Jackson, Lot Pool, Thomas Boyd, Abner Bourne, James L. Homer, Joseph P. Bradlee, John K. Simpson, William Adams, Theophilus R. Marvin, Daniel Safford, Asa Swallow, John B. Wells, and G. L." This committee reported, April 13, two distinct plans for the consideration of the meeting, either of which, if carried out, would accomplish the desired object. The second proposition was stricken from the report, and the first, after some verbal amendments, was accepted, as follows: —

To procure, by voluntary bequest, among the members only, an amount sufficient to warrant the society in undertaking, in its corporate capacity, to purchase a site and erect a hall. The amount necessary to complete the work, independent of the amount of donations, to be borrowed on the faith of the association. Should this mode of procedure be adopted, the committee recommend the appointment of a committee to ascertain the amount that can be obtained as a gift for this noble work from the members only, payable as the committee may prescribe.

The same committee were instructed to perform the service they had recommended.

The committee appointed October 6, 1836, upon the proper qualifications of persons applying for admission, made the following report, April 13: —

The committee appointed to report what persons may, according to the constitution, be considered as candidates for admission to this society, have adverted to the original design and purpose of those who founded it; or, in other words, to the legitimate and desirable, primary and ultimate ends to be attained by such a compact.

The title of the association, CHARITABLE MECHANIC, more than implies two things: — First, that the prominent object should be *charity;* and second, that this charity should be exercised by associated *mechanics.* A second object, as the preamble and constitution clearly show, is to cultivate and improve those arts which appertain to the respective trades of the association. The constitution provides that the association may consist of mechanics and manufacturers, and these evidently considered in the popular sense. Should we trace the etymology of the words mechanic and manufacturer perhaps we should find them literally to signify the same thing. The meaning of our constitution is unquestionably in accordance with the common acceptation of the words, and this we take

to be as follows, viz. A mechanic is one who operates in his trade by the use of implements applied by the hand — one who uses his appropriate tools with appropriate skill. This is sometimes called "*handicraft*" A manufacturer is one who by skilful use of machinery produces from the raw material articles which usually pass through the hands of the mechanic before they are applied to the purposes of life. We have no difficulty in defining what we mean by a mechanic — but not so as to a manufacturer, since manufacturing is frequently carried on in effect by those who pretend to no particular skill in the mechanic arts or to any practical or scientific knowledge in the use of machinery, while their profession or occupation may be that of a lawyer, a merchant, or any other of the various callings of life. But evidently the object of our fathers was to associate real mechanic skill for the reasons and ends already stated, and of course that the mere proprietor or stockholder in a manufacturing establishment was not intended to be embraced in the association. The committee therefore think that none should be regarded as legitimate candidates for membership but such as are or have been actual mechanics or manufacturers according to the exposition we have endeavored to give — not necessarily those of course who apply themselves to manual labor in the arts — but those who possess such skill in their particular trades as clearly and literally constitute them mechanics or manufacturers. The constitution requires that the candidate, if a mechanic, should be a master workman, and if a manufacturer, a proprietor or superintendent. The reasons for these restrictions are obvious — they have particular respect to the utility and dignity of the association, as subordination is and must be recognized in all well regulated communities. And it may here be proper to add, as a necessary inference, that a master workman, in the sense intended by the constitution, is not only a skilful and thorough mechanic, but one who has attained to such respectable standing in society as to enable him to undertake and prosecute the business of his trade on his own account.

The candidate "must have fulfilled his engagements as an apprentice." This plainly does *not* mean that every breach of duty during the period of apprenticeship should forever exclude the individual from becoming a member; but only, that if such fault did exist, it must have been reconciled and canceled, that no cause of disaffection should arise among the members on that account; and the rule was intended to be as binding on the master as upon the apprentice; that none who would enjoy the honors and privileges of a member here should, with impunity, entice away or employ the apprentice of another. Nor does this clause intend that every candidate *should have been an apprentice;* for it was known to the founders of our institution, as it is to us, that many of the most ingenious and successful mechanics who have honored the name, had no masters to teach them, but their own *master-spirits.*

This association, formed for the most praiseworthy ends, mutual relief and mutual effort to advance the arts and bless the world, could not be

trammeled by formal and illiberal rules; but would hold out to the inventive and ingenious mind the highest inducement to pursue its native tastes, and invite its co-operation to the highest aims and best results.

Therefore the committee recommend, that while the spirit of the constitution in reference to candidates be strictly regarded, no arbitrary practice, based on its mere literal construction, should on the one hand introduce those among us who pretend to no practical knowledge of mechanics, or on the other exclude from our fellowship any whose scientific or practical skill, united with moral excellence, qualify them to advance the great designs of our association.

Respectfully submitted.

Signed, JOHN RAYNER,
BENJAMIN RUSSELL,
ABNER BOURNE,
JOSEPH JENKINS,
T. R. MARVIN,
LOTT POOL,
*Committee.*

The report was accepted, and ordered to be printed and circulated among the members.

July 5. A circular from the American Institute of New-York, — recommending a "convention of representatives from all the productive portions of our country, without distinction of parties, to be held in Philadelphia, on the first Tuesday in August, to consider the present embarrassed condition of the commercial community," — was read by the president. A motion was made and advocated, that a delegation be sent to the convention. The proposition was referred to a committee, which, at an adjourned meeting, reported against it. The principal objection was, that it would tend to introduce political discussion into the meetings of the association, and destroy the harmony that had hitherto existed among the members. The report was unanimously accepted.

The committee on lectures for the season engaged the Odeon for that purpose, and the usual appropriation for the expense was voted at the quarterly meeting in October. Seven hundred dollars were placed at the disposal of the school committee.

The committee of relief reported at the close of the year, that there were on the list of recipients for the charity of the association, twenty-seven individuals, twenty-five of whom

were widows, and all of whom came strictly within the design of the charity. The sums dispensed, although not large, had yet rendered essential aid, and, in many instances, had served to keep in a condition of comfort those who might have suffered without them. The aggregate of the benefactions of the committee was $438;—a larger sum than had been before expended; but which was deemed necessary and expedient, owing to the great advance in the price of the necessaries of life, which had fallen heavily on the poor. The committee say—"We are satisfied that the yearly appropriations are well bestowed in relieving the necessities of the destitute widows and helpless offspring of brother craftsmen, who have fallen to the tomb, leaving behind them objects so dear to them, and now strongly endeared to the association by the Christian bonds of charity and benevolence."

The receipts of the treasury were:—

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|---|---|---|
| Dividends on bank stock, . . . . . | $1,091 60 | |
| From the secretary, for assessments, . . | 1,011 50 | |
| " " for admission fees and life membership, . . . | 1,290 00 | |
| Donation from Thomas Kinnicutt, of Worcester, | 10 00 | |
| " Edward Carnes, jun. . . | 5 00 | $3,408 10 |

The treasurer had paid out, during the year:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| To the committee of relief, . . . . . | $400 00 | |
| " " on lectures, . . . . . | 540 00 | |
| " " on school, . . . . . | 308 77 | |
| To the families of deceased members, . . | 360 00 | |
| To the secretary, . . . . . | 100 00 | |
| Printing and advertising, . . . . . | 228 87 | |
| Rent, and other contingent expenses, . . | 280 98 | 2,118 62 |
| Giving an increase to the funds of . . . . . | | $1,289 48 |

One hundred and thirty-eight persons were admitted:—

Thomas Appleton, Organ-builder.
Josiah Dunham, jun. Rope-maker.
John B. Russell, Printer.
Nathan Prince, Bricklayer.
John C. Hubbard, Chair-maker.
Adam W. Thaxter, Housewright.
Alden Brooks, Housewright.
Ebenezer Parsons, Housewright.
Edward Harding, Mast-maker.
Frederick A. Henderson, Tailor.
James Tolman, Tailor.
Nathaniel Waterman, jun. Tin-plate- worker.
David Bowker, Bricklayer.
Samuel Hart, jun. Bricklayer.
Samuel Cate, Cooper.

John Newhall, Wheelwright.
Daniel L. Ware, Painter.
Elbridge Brown, Hatter.
Jacob L. Savage, Blacksmith.
Daniel B. Whittridge, Whitesmith.
William Sutton, Leather-dresser.
James Loring, Sail-maker.
Robert Burr, Trunk-maker
Seth Fuller, Housewright.
E. W. Pike, Housewright.
Dennis Smith, Housewright.
Thomas J. Hadley, Housewright.
Daniel D. Badger, Black and White smith.
Joseph Urann, Cooper.
Benjamin Blaney, Mason.
Robert Marsh, Mason.
David H. Ela, Printer.
Jeremiah Ross, Tailor.
James Snow, Painter.
David Marden, Bricklayer.
Stephen Smith, Cabinet-maker.
William M. Nassau, Hairdresser.
Charles B. Lloyd, Gilder.
George W. Skerry, Silver-smith.
Thomas J. Whittemore, Card-manufacturer.
Ebenezer Johnson, Bricklayer.
Thomas B. Warren, Baker.
Henry Hutchinson, Sailmaker.
Enoch Goodwin, Cooper.
James Hunt, Carpenter.
Thomas L. Rayner, Slater.
William Crombie, Cordwainer.
Joseph Clark, Jeweler.
Timothy Eaton, Silver-plater.
Richard Robinson, Attleboro', Button-manufacturer.
Henry G. Terry, Bookbinder.
John Cowden, Soap-stone-manufacturer.
Francis Dilloway, Housewright.
Nathaniel S. Prime, Housewright.
Hosea Corthell, Housewright.
Joseph Foster, Paper-maker.
John J. Low, Jeweler.
Samuel R. Johnson, Stone-cutter.
David Barnard, Distiller.
Thomas Palmer, Mason.
Hobart Spencer, Bricklayer.
Charles A. Smith, Painter.
Albert G. Browne, Cordage-manufacturer.
Caleb S. Pratt, Housewright.
William G. Edwards, Slater.
William S. Damrell, Printer.
John Ford, Printer.
Andrew P. Young, Painter.
John Putnam, Printer.
Thomas Simmons, Harness-maker.
Phinehas A. Stone, Carpenter.
Fitz William Rogers, Cabinet-maker.
William W. Wheildon, Charlestown, Printer.
Edwin Brown, Piano-forte-manufacturer.
Russell Hallett, Piano-forte-manufacturer.
Ezekiel Pitman, jun. Tailor.
Walter Bryent, Sheet-iron-worker.
Charles G. King, Mathematical-Instrument-maker.
John Hooper, Bookbinder.
John Hunt, Morocco-dresser.
J. G. L. Libbey, Jeweler.
Gardner Chilson, Grate-manufacturer.
John G. Copp, Sheet-iron and Tin-plate-worker.
James S. Sweet, Watch-maker.
Lorenzo G. Smith, Gilder.
Gardner Edmands, Painter and Glazier.
Thomas Shaw, Housewright.
Timothy Tileston, Plane-maker.
Benjamin Hemmenway, Copper-smith.
Benjamin D. Holmes, Copper-smith.
John Cummings, jun. Woburn, Currier.

John Springer, Sterling, Housewright.
Seth Lewis, Housewright.
John G. Gould, Housewright
Holland Blackmer, Housewright.
Azel Ames, jun. Housewright.
Clement Stetson, Housewright.
Ebenezer Morton, Housewright.
John R. Hammond, Housewright.
Jonathan Wade, Mason.
Ephraim Orcutt, Mason.
Albert W. Smith, Blacksmith.
Frederick H. Stimpson, Stove-manufacturer.
Nathaniel Perkins, Engraver.
Isaac Carey, Copper-plate-printer.
R. P. Mallory, Engraver.
Jesse Osborn, Brighton, Wheelwright.
Levi Wilkins, Piano-forte-manufacturer.
Eliphalet Davis, Cambridge, Fancy-Soap-manufacturer.
Amos W. Stetson, Braintree, Boot-maker.
Moses Hunt, Machinist.
John Ball, Cooper.
John P. Ford, Bricklayer.
Thomas B. Hawkes, Cabinet-maker.
Philip Peak, Sail-maker.
James Paul, Upholsterer.
George Baird, Plumber.
Ebenezer Holbrook, Watertown, Carpenter.
Josiah Parsons, Carpenter.
Josiah M. Harding, Sail-maker.
John Bates, Painter.
George W. Robinson, Machinist.
Henry Plympton, Balance-manufacturer.
Alexander S. Jordan, Comb-maker.
Enoch Sutton, Jeweler.
Edward Flood, Hairdresser.
Augustus S. Dawley, Machinist.
Francis Low, Rigger.
William Bishop, Gun-smith.
Lyman White, Ornamental-painter.
Benjamin Burrill, Roxbury, Wheelwright.
Oliver R. Whiting, Carpenter.
Thomas S. Pitman, Baker.
John P. Orcutt, Painter.
Jeremiah Smith, Carpenter.
Jeffrey A. Jones, Bookbinder.

Eight members were discharged on account of delinquency. Twelve members deceased, as appears by the treasurer's account: — William Grant, Thomas Dewhurst, William Baker, Joseph Thomas, Loring Newcomb, Henry Lienow, Solomon Howe, Edmund Parsons, John Cotton, Joseph Munn, G. W. Blake, and John Roberts.

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## 1838.

Annual meeting, January 4. After the disposal of the reports of committees concerning the affairs of the preceding year, the following officers were elected: —

George Darracott, *President.*
Joseph Lewis, *Vice-President.*
Uriel Crocker, *Treasurer.*
John G. Rogers, *Secretary.*

| | |
|---|---|
| James L. Homer, | Willard N. Fisher, |
| Thomas J. Shelton, | Jonathan Loring, |
| Walter Frost, | Elias Kingsley, |
| Nathaniel Hammond, | Jonas Chickering, |
| Henry W. Dutton, | *Trustees.* |

A proposition to amend the constitution, so as to increase the number of trustees to twenty-one, — and to declare that no person should be eligible to membership, unless he should be a native-born citizen of the United States, — was offered, and referred to a committee, but was rejected.

Another motion, "to consider the expediency of altering that part of the constitution, which subjects members to an assessment of Three dollars at the triennial festival, — met with the same fate.

A communication was made to the government, by Messrs. Josiah Quincy and Daniel Treadwell, upon the subject of erecting a monument to the memory of the late Dr. Bowditch, an honorary member of the association. A special meeting of the government was called to consider it. Circulars, prepared by the several institutions which had joined in the undertaking, were presented by the president. The subject was then referred to a special meeting of the association, and it was voted to unite with other institutions, in the erection of a monument. A committee of three from each ward of the city was appointed to collect subscriptions. One hundred and fifty-six dollars were obtained. Most of the members were waited on by the committee, but the project met with less favor than was expected.

The annexed report from the government was made to the quarterly meeting in July, and was accepted: —

The committee to whom was referred the proposition of the *Boston Mechanic Institution*, to transfer to the association their valuable and highly useful apparatus and models, to be forever the property of the association, have duly considered the subject referred to them, and would respectfully report, — That, in their opinion, this apparatus is of great value, and will be extremely useful in illustrating subjects lectured upon before the association; and they feel that the association should in some way express their sense of the liberality of the members of the Mechanics Institution, in thus selecting our association as the one who would be the most likely

to benefit the community in carrying out the original designs of that society, viz. The encouragement of a taste for the fine arts and the exact sciences, among our operative mechanics and working men, as well as others; and your committee would therefore recommend the adoption of the following votes: —

1. That the thanks of this association be presented to the officers and members of the Boston Mechanics Institution, for their liberal and very acceptable donation.

2. That each article be marked, — "*Presented to the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, by the Boston Mechanic Institution.*"

3. That a free ticket of admission to the lectures of the association be presented to the following gentlemen, the surviving members of the Mechanic Institution * — which ticket shall secure to them the free admission to the lectures of this association, viz. Francis C. Whiston, George B. Emerson, John Pierpont, John Ware, Nathan Appleton, Joseph Tilden, P. P. F. Degrand, Gamaliel Bradford, William Hayden, jun. Daniel Treadwell, William Lyman, Thomas Tarbell, and John T. Prince.

4. That the treasurer be authorized to pay a sum not exceeding *two hundred dollars*, to meet any expense which may be incurred in carrying the aforesaid votes into execution.

Per order, GEORGE DARRACOTT.

An elaborate report from the school committee represented the school as an exceedingly useful institution, and demanding further appropriations to increase and extend its advantages among the apprentices of mechanics.

Nineteen lectures were delivered during the season, by ten individuals; and a eulogy on Dr. Bowditch, by the Rev. Alexander Young.

All preceding attempts, in reference to the building of a hall, having proved abortive, a new committee, consisting of the president, and Messrs. C. Wells, S. Fairbanks, A. Parris, T. Washburn, L. Pool, and C. Leighton, was appointed to pursue the object. After a few days the committee produced the following report, which was accepted: —

The committee appointed to take into consideration the expediency of the association purchasing a lot of land for the purpose of erecting thereon a Hall, to be used for lectures and other purposes, have given the subject their careful consideration, and ask leave to report: — That, in the opinion of your committee, no time for many years past has presented a more favorable opportunity than the present for prosecuting a work of this

* Who are not members of the association.

nature. Business is now reviving; confidence is restored, and money is now abundant; but neither land nor materials has as yet advanced in price, as it is probable they will in the course of the ensuing year. These circumstances seem to your committee to point to the present time as the one peculiarly favorable to commence this undertaking. It is now upwards of forty years since this association was first formed, and during this entire time the mechanics who have erected temples and palaces for others have had no resting place for themselves. They have done but little to give to themselves a local habitation and a name. This ought not to be; and it is now full time that they who have done so much for others should show that they are both able and willing to do something for themselves. And from the great increase in the knowledge of the science of architecture as well as in the manner of working the material, your committee cannot but believe that should the work now proceed, a building will be erected that will be not only an ornament to the city, but one of which the mechanics of Massachusetts may well be proud.

It may perhaps be expected that your committee will say something as to the probable cost of such a building as will meet the wants of the association, but it must be obvious to all that such an estimate, should it be made, could be only an approximation towards the truth, until the site is selected and a plan agreed upon. But your committee have turned their inquiries to this point, and can say, in round numbers, that a building of granite, sixty feet wide and something over one hundred feet long, if built in a plain but substantial manner, can be erected for a sum not far from forty thousand dollars, and if ornamented with columns, pilasters, capitals, and a heavy cornice, twenty thousand dollars in addition would be required. Now, assuming the cost of land at thirty thousand dollars, the cost of land and building would be, in the first case $70,000, and in the other $90,000.

Such a building would have a hall for the use of the association, school and model rooms, a library, laboratory, &c. with several stores and rooms to let; and there would be an income from the hall as well as a saving of the sum the association now pay, and the income may safely be estimated at something over six per cent. on the amount invested.

As regards the means of obtaining the necessary funds, your committee would recommend that the association issue scrip, or certificates of stock, redeemable in twenty years, bearing an interest of four and a half per cent. payable annually; — and that the opinions of the members of the association may be more fully expressed as to the expediency of this measure, that the subscription be in the first place offered to the members only; and if the whole or a major part of the sum required should not be by them subscribed, the committee will be forced to the conclusion that they have mistaken the spirit which they have been led to believe animated the society, and have mistaken the wishes of a few for the expression of the sentiments of the whole; and they would then recommend that the whole affair be again permitted to subside, for they cannot

believe that the independent mechanics of the old Bay State would ever solicit assistance from others to do what they are so abundantly able to do for themselves. But your committee cannot for a moment suffer themselves to believe, that, in an association of upwards of seven hundred master mechanics, there could not be found at least one half their number who would be willing to take stock of this kind to the amount of two hundred dollars each, — stock of which there cannot be a possibility of failing to be paid at maturity. But should their belief be unfounded, they must, as a matter of necessity, come to the conclusion before stated, that the time has not yet arrived when the association are prepared to erect a Hall for their own use. But, on the contrary, should an amount of $50,000 and upwards be subscribed by the members, they feel a full confidence that the remainder of the sum required will be obtained without any difficulty.

In order to bring this matter fairly before the association, the committee recommend the adoption of the following votes, viz: —

*Voted*, That the association do now proceed to purchase land and erect thereon a Hall, provided the sum of fifty thousand dollars be subscribed by members of the association upon the terms recommended in the above report.

*Voted*, That a committee of twenty-five be now chosen for the purpose of procuring subscribers.

*Voted*, That the treasurer be authorized to prepare subscription-books, agreeably to the above vote.

*Voted*, That these books be offered to every member of the association for their subscription.

*Voted*, That the secretary be authorized to have lists of the members printed and furnished the committee with copies of the same.

In conclusion, the committee would recommend that the subject be now prosecuted without delay, and that the question whether or not the association shall have a hall, be now put at rest.

All of which is respectfully submitted, by order of the committee.

GEORGE DARRACOTT.

An ineffectual attempt was made to get up an exhibition and fair in September. The government recommended that there should be another exhibition in 1839.

The treasurer's receipts up to the close of the year, including dividends, assessments, admission fees, and a donation of $37 50, from the widow of Joseph P. Bradlee, amounted to $2,695 56. The expenditure, for schools, lectures, relief, families of deceased members, printing and advertising, rent of rooms, secretary's salary, and for the apparatus received from the Mechanic Institute, was $3,534 10: — being an

excess of expenditure over income of $858 34. This is accounted for by the very liberal manner in which the association voted money to the committee of relief, and the committee on schools.

In concluding their annual report the committee on finance remark, —

Although the prospect which a short time since seemed so fair that ere the return of another year the association would have a Hall of their own to meet in, is for the present clouded, yet your committee do not despair — the time will soon arrive when a more active business will give a new impulse, and the work so long desired will be accomplished.

Much of the energy which has been exerted by the association during the two past years, your committee cannot but believe was infused into it by the late Fair, an event which added much to the honor and usefulness of the association; and should the association, acting upon the report of the government herewith submitted, renew the attempt the ensuing year, they cannot but believe that profiting by past experience they will avoid the errors incident to all new undertakings and render a service to the community as well as to themselves by so doing. Should the association determine not to adopt this plan, it will then be for them to determine what measures shall be taken to meet the increasing expenses of the association; for as we have but 680 nominal paying members, the income from this source cannot be estimated at more than $1,300; — add to which dividends of bank stock, $1,100, — would make the gross income about $2,400, — to meet an expense of at least $3,000; — for all will allow that the admission fees, at least, should be added to the permanent fund. Shall we reduce the appropriations for the school? Your committee trust not. Shall we take from the pittance allowed to the widow and fatherless? Every hand would be raised against it. Shall we increase the quarterly assessments? This seems the only feasible project, and considering the advantages enjoyed, the sum is very small. Two dollars per year, with the privilege of attending a full course of lectures and an opportunity of schooling our apprentices, either of which would cost more than double the yearly assessment. Unless one or the other of these projects is adopted, the fund which has gone on permanently increasing until the present year will soon be sensibly diminished.

Having thus fully stated to the association the situation of their affairs, and the opinion of your committee thereon, they respectfully submit the whole for the action of the association.

Signed, GEORGE DARRACOTT,
JAMES L. HOMER,
WALTER FROST,
JOSEPH LEWIS,
THOMAS J. SHELTON.

Fifty members were added to the association, viz: —

John H. Sweet, Jeweler.
Benjamin Clapp, Cooper.
Jesse Tuttle, Cooper.
Gilham B. Wheeler, Carpenter.
George Gray, Carpenter.
William J. Slade, Carpenter.
Thomas L. Bates, Carpenter.
William King, Electrician.
William A. Weeks, Printer.
Calvin Shepard, jun. Framingham, Rope-maker.
Friend Seymour, Housewright.
Timothy Gilbert, Piano-forte-manufacturer.
Daniel Jones, Shipwright.
James Dillon, Shipwright.
Charles H. Harrenton, Sash-maker.
Benjamin Dodge, Watch-maker.
Cornelius Briggs, Cabinet-maker.
Henry Prentiss, Musical Instrument manufacturer.
Josiah E. Hayden, Boot-maker.
Joseph P. Gould, Coppersmith.
William Hazlett, Coppersmith.
John L. Roberts, Mason.
Allarus Wright, Last-maker.
Seth Chadbourne, Blacksmith.
Samuel S. Pettingill, Ship-joiner.
Milton Hall, jun. Housewright.
George Scott, Housewright.
William Keith, Carpenter.
Benjamin Hawkes, Carpenter.
John Towne, Gas-manufacturer.
George Darracott, jun. Machinist.
Isaac Adams, Machinist.
Seth Adams, Machinist.
William Curry, Jeweler.
Joseph L. Ross, Cabinet-maker.
Stephen Whitmane, Charlestown, Rope-maker.
Daniel B. Badger, Tailor.
William A. Wheeler, Worcester, Iron-founder.
Jonathan Howe, Charlestown, Printer.
John B. Lakes, Housewright.
Pelham Bonney, Housewright.
Stephen F. Wilson, Housewright.
George Vannevar, Housewright.
George W. Vinton, Confectioner.
Vistus Balch, Engraver.
Ammi B. Young, Architect.
Charles S. Holland, Copper-plate-printer.
Charles Pike, Baker.
John W. Damon, Lancaster, Manufacturer.
James O. Curtis, Medford, Ship-builder.

Twelve members were discharged for delinquency; one was discharged at his own request; and ten died, viz. John K. Simpson, Samuel Brown, Loring Sargent, Joseph P. Bradlee,* Samuel Hart, Joseph Mountfort, Andrew Battles, and Jesse Niles.

* Joseph Putnam Bradlee was the son of Josiah Bradlee, and was born in Boston, May 17, 1783. His father was a manufacturer of tin ware, and of him our associate learned his business, and practised it for many years. One of his friends, who wrote an affectionate tribute to his memory, soon after his decease, says, and with unquestioned truth, — "His whole stock in trade was purity of conduct, soundness of principles, industry, and full confidence in honest exertion for a living. By familiarity and suavity of manners he attracted employers, and by honesty and liberality secured them. In process of time, he added to his occupation the traffic of an oil merchant, and found

# 1839.

Annual meeting, January 3. Officers elected for the year: —

George Darracott, *President.*
Joseph Lewis, *Vice-President.*
Uriel Crocker, *Treasurer.*
John G. Rogers, *Secretary.*

Thomas J. Shelton, Benjamin Beal,
Jonas Chickering, William Eaton,
Henry W. Dutton, Theodore Washburn,
Willard N. Fisher, John Wade,
Elias Kingsley, *Trustees.*

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it a safe and profitable business. He then began to indulge in deeds of charity, to which all his feelings and sentiments were attuned. He had been practising in silence and secrecy, the lessons which he afterwards avowed and taught. As he grew prosperous, the ordinary eleemosynary duties did not satisfy him; he saw the hungry fed, the naked clothed, the sick healed, the broken-hearted soothed, and the wanderers from rectitude led back to virtue; but this was not enough for such a spirit; he labored for more permanent movements of philanthropy. When those institutions were formed which soften so many of the ills that flesh is heir to, — the asylums for the insane, the blind, the deaf and dumb, and other unfortunate beings that crowd this world of ours, he contributed with such liberality, that he may be said to have left the imprint of his charitable hand on every granite block that forms those resplendent edifices, at once the pride and glory of a people."

Many pages of memorial, similar in fidelity to the character of Mr. Bradlee, might be gathered from the newspapers which recorded his death. But an extract from a sermon, preached the Sunday after his funeral by the Rev. N. L. Frothingham, must suffice.

"He was ambitious of a good name. He openly sought and honorably acquired it. He strove to make a place for himself, by deserving, in the regards and memories of men. . . . . There were some combinations in him, that to an attentive observer might appear remarkable. While he labored for what was useful, and followed his pursuits, eager as the busiest, among the turmoil and dust of the world, he had an eye and a heart for all the forms of beauty. He sought for improvement in what embellishes society, as well as in what makes it strong. And when one saw him turn from the homeliest materials of industry, to enjoy the embroidery of a leaf or the perfume of a flower, he could hardly help thinking that he saw there, emblematically portrayed, a description of his mind. Under his plain manners there lay refined and delicate feelings. In his roughest speech there was a friendly purpose. To the qualities of a bold and vigorous character he joined the tenderest sensibilities. Of an ardent and impetuous temperament, he was yet considerate of others, and did well understand himself, not carried away by any ungenerous heats or undue elations.

"But I must pass from this view of him, to present, in a word or two, some of the particular points that press most into notice. And first stands out his integrity, his unswerving, uncompromising adherence to the right. To be merely scrupulously honest were somewhat, in these days, when the love of gain and the perplexities of the times have tempted so many consciences, and blighted so much peace. But with him the sense of justice was always a sentiment quick and watchful, incapable of a fault and

On motion of S. T. Armstrong, it was voted, "that the president and treasurer, with Messrs. Wilkinson, Marvin, and L. Pool, be a *special committee*, to take into consideration the

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impatient of a suspicion, resolving to persevere at every hazard or sacrifice, and choosing any suffering rather than a dishonor. By the side of this shining quality we must place his benevolence, wide and impartial as it was, warm and ready — all but too ready. 'To do good — hoping for nothing again,' if it were not proposed as his rule, was at least adopted for his practice. His good-will was of no slumbering kind, folding its hands and doing nothing. It went about. It was full of activity. It was as generous of its efforts as it was of its means. It accomplished more by what it set in motion, than by what it gave. It excited others to emulation, or drew from them their reluctant aid, and so promoted in every way its charitable designs. It was patient also. It was not to be worn out by repeated demands. It was not to be mortified by repeated disappointments. It was not to be repelled even by unworthiness. It worked quietly where no one saw it. It worked obstinately when no one thanked him. He followed an impulse, that he would rather die than disobey. Many will look round in vain for their benefactor, and, while they 'bless his memory,' mourn that his kind face and open hand are reduced to that.

"Nor was this disposition of his confined to every-day occurrences and private life. It took the form of public spirit. I am aware that, on this point, I am speaking to those who know more than I do. But he must be indeed a recluse, who has not heard something of his enterprize and perseverance, when works of general munificence were to be started into action, or were to be encouraged, and held on, and carried into effect, while they were languishing for want of help. Many of our institutions of philanthropy, — many of the ornaments of our city, which was one of his delights, — own their obligations to his friendly zeal. His name is not cast in the iron, or graven in the stone, of which they are composed, — nor did he wish it should be, — but it may be found among those of the liberal men, who did their best to fix them in their places.

"He was a sincere and most open-hearted man. He had no disguises. He needed none. He despised them all. He would pass but for what he was. Whatever foible he might have been subject to, — whatever merit he might have possessed, — there it was, — and the world might look at it; and the world must have looked sharply to have detected there a meanness, or an hypocrisy, or the slightest habit of vice. His heart was upon his lips; and, since its streams were abundant, the lips would partake of their flow. But truth and kindness and honor dwelt there. He would not say more than he thought, or other than he thought. He never claimed praise for more than he performed. He had a principled aversion to pretences and pretensions of every kind. He would do what he could, and let it go for what it was worth. If you liked it he was happy, and if you liked it not he was content. He was not a man to blush for having meant well, — and I have never known an instance in which he meant otherwise. You could make him your friend, and be sure that he would not keep back, through timidity or want of plain dealing, any thing that might be thought profitable to you. You could make him your friend, and be sure that he would never misuse your confidence."

Among the many acts of Mr. Bradlee to help forward projects of philanthropy and public embellishment, may be mentioned his agency in procuring subscriptions to secure Mr. Perkins's donation to the Asylum for the Blind, and his successful effort in obtaining money to erect the beautiful iron fence which incloses the common — a fence, which, but for him, would not have been erected during the generation to which he belonged. Mr. Bradlee died February 19, 1838.

financial situation of the association, and report thereon as soon as convenient. The committee reported at a special meeting on the sixteenth; the report was recommitted, with instructions to print it, and distribute it to the members. At the quarterly meeting in April, the report was taken up, and a discussion ensued which occupied the whole time of the meeting. Some amendments were made, and it was then adopted in the following form: —

The committee to whom was referred that part of the report of the committee of finance which relates to the diminution of the funds, have attended to the duty assigned them, and submit the following report: —

It appears, from a very minute and careful examination of the treasurer's book, that the expenses have gradually been increasing in a ratio larger than the increase of the receipts from the fees of admission and quarterages of the members. This increase has principally been in the various appropriations which have from year to year been *voted by the association* for the maintenance of schools, lectures, and to the committee of relief. These objects have ever been considered of primary importance, reflecting honor on the association, and adding much to its usefulness, and which your committee, in common with a large majority of the association, would feel deep regret in being obliged to curtail. Yet your committee have unavoidably been brought to the conclusion that this *must be done*, or some means be devised to increase the annual income to an amount sufficient to cover the actual expenses, without having recourse to the admission fees; which amount, as will hereafter be shown, is all wanted to meet the demands which must unavoidably from time to time be made upon it. Your committee would here state, that, averaging the time of those members who have deceased the last twelve years, and ascertaining from the books the whole amount paid by them into the funds, it has been found that an amount greater than all they have paid during their membership has been refunded to their relatives at their decease. In support of this declaration, the following table, taken from the books of the treasurer, is submitted: —

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| In 1827, | 6 | died, — average time | | 15 | years, — average amount paid, | | $40 00 |
| | | of membership, | | | | | |
| 1828, | 3 | " | " | 15 | " | " | 40 66 |
| 1829, | 5 | " | " | 16 | " | " | 42 80 |
| 1830, | 8 | " | " | 12 | " | " | 32 50 |
| 1831, | 6 | " | " | 15 | " | " | 38 33 |
| 1832, | 6 | " | " | 18 | " | " | 45 33 |
| 1833, | 8 | " | " | 7 | " | " | 24 50 |
| 1834, | 4 | " | " | 12 | " | " | 31 50 |
| | 46 | | | 110 | | | $295 62 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brought forward, — | | | | | | | |
| | 46 | | | 110 | | | $295 62 |
| In 1835, | 5 | died, — average time of membership, | | 19 years, — average amount paid, | | | 47 60 |
| 1836, | 6 | " | " | 12 | " | " | 31 33 |
| 1837, | 9 | " | " | 13 | " | " | 33 33 |
| 1838, | 10 | " | " | 11½ | " | " | 32 80 |
| | | | | 12)167 | | | 12)440 68 |
| | 76 whole number of deaths, — | | | nearly 14 years average, — average am't, | | | $36 72 |

The above table shews, that in twelve years 76 members have died, the average time of whose membership was a little short of fourteen years, and the average amounts paid by each was $36 72; while there was paid to the relatives of each, at their decease, forty dollars, — making on the whole an amount paid out of nearly two hundred and fifty dollars more than the entrance fees and quarterages during the time they continued members.

To show that the time which these persons continued as members was a full average of what may be expected hereafter the following abstract has been prepared: —

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | from | 30 | to | 35 | years. |
| 6 | " | 25 | " | 30 | " |
| 6 | " | 20 | " | 25 | " |
| 9 | " | 15 | " | 20 | " |
| 11 | " | 10 | " | 15 | " |
| 19 | " | 5 | " | 10 | " |
| 16 | less than | | | 5 | " |

Or, two-fifths from 15 to 30 years.
three-fifths from 1 to 15 years.

It will therefore be seen, that, under the present regulations, nothing is added to the funds by an increase of members, but that each new member has a claim greater than all the amount he will probably contribute, in addition to all the other advantages he may derive from his membership.

It also appears, from the treasurer's books, that the lectures, schools, and contingent expenses, (exclusive of the amount voted the committee of relief and paid to families of deceased members) for the past year, was $2,134 10, — equal to $3 28 each paying member; while the assessments are but $2 each member; and this excess of expenditure must be drawn from that which should be a *permanent* fund; and, as before shown, this fund is already burthened with claims greater than it can meet without being soon sensibly reduced and ultimately entirely absorbed. The amounts voted the committee of relief amounted to more than one half its income; and it must be borne in mind, that although there is a nominal increase by each new member paying in his admission fee, yet there

is no actual gain, for this, at the same time, constitutes a new claimant, under the present regulation, for an amount greater than all he pays.

By examining life-tables and from information derived from those conversant in such calculations, it is found that a man thirty-five years of age should deposit $25, conditioning to receive $40 at his death, and as the average age of persons joining our association is fully up to this period of life, that sum would appear to be quite small enough to require as an admission fee; but as this sum might be inconveniently large for many young and deserving mechanics, your committee were deterred from recommending so large an amount as the fee of admission; but aware that it was absolutely necessary that the amount must be increased, and other changes made in our regulations, to insure the prosperity if not the actual existence of the association, after mature and careful deliberation, would respectfully recommend the following alterations in the constitution and by-laws: —

*Alterations in the Constitution.*

Art. IX. *Section* 1. Strike out the word "ten," and insert "fifteen." It will then read "the fee for ordinary membership is fifteen dollars."

Art. III. *Section* 2. Add the following words, — "Provided nevertheless, that if any member shall be out of the state, or shall leave a notice in writing with the secretary, fifteen days at least before the celebration of the triennial festival, that it is not his intention to partake of the same, then and in that case he shall be excused from paying the assessment which shall be laid for defraying the expense of the same; but no other excuse shall be deemed valid, except as heretofore provided."

In recommending to the association so important alterations in their constitution, your committee are aware that they have assumed much responsibility, but their conclusions were based upon the necessity of the case, that it was imperative that a change must be made while it was yet in the power of the association to rectify a financial error which had been incorporated into their constitution and by-laws without due deliberation; — and, sensible as they were that common justice required that this should be done while it was yet in their power, they could not hesitate to do that which they conceived to be right, because the measure recommended might be an unpopular one; nor was it to be expected that even in the committee all should think alike, and we feel bound to state that one gentleman dissented entirely from the rest of your committee; he conceiving it to be the duty of the committee to point out how the expenses might be brought below or within the income rather than how the income might be made to cover the expenses, — and wished the committee to recommend that a reduction of three hundred dollars should be made in the appropriations to each of the three committees of relief, schools, and lectures.

Having thus fully stated the views not only of the majority but of the minority of your committee, they cheerfully submit the whole for the consideration of the association.

Signed, GEORGE DARRACOTT, for the committee.

The report was accepted by a constitutional majority; and Article III, Section 2, and Article IX, Section 1, of the constitution were declared to be altered accordingly.

The Second Exhibition and Fair was held this year,—commencing on the twenty-third of September, and closing on the fifth of October. It was managed by the government, constituted by the association a committee for that purpose. William Washburn, a member of the association, was appointed general superintendant; and under his judicious and scientific arrangement, the numerous (almost innumerable) articles, sent in by eleven hundred and ninety-six contributors, were conveniently and tastefully displayed. Seventy thousand persons, including members and their families, contributors, delegates, and judges, visited the exhibition. In accordance with the recommendations of the judges, twenty-five gold and one hundred and thirty-three silver medals, and two hundred and fifty-four diplomas were awarded. A gold medal was also given to Mr. Washburn, for his unremitting care and attention to the duties assigned to him, and for the very acceptable manner in which he discharged them. Mr. Washburn designed a light and beautiful bridge which was erected to unite the two halls — a subject of universal admiration.

The eleventh triennial festival was also held this year. The public services were held at the Odeon. After the customary religious service, an address was delivered by James T. Austin, an honorary member. Mr. Austin's address was a production of great value, full of practical good sense, and enriched with apt and powerful illustration. At the close of the public services, the association, with their guests, passed in procession to Faneuil Hall. "The festivities at the table were of the most interesting character. The entire lower floor of the hall, and a large portion of the galleries were occupied by the tables, and nearly every seat was filled. The hall was decorated with banners and emblems in beautiful style. On the opposite sides of the galleries were the names of the past presidents of the association, in large ornamented letters. On the western end, a superb arch, bearing the name of the association, the year of its origin, and the names of

the vice-presidents, treasurers, and secretaries; on the eastern end, the words Agriculture, Mechanic Arts, and Commerce, with suitable emblems over each word, selected from the articles exhibited in the Fair. On the right of the president's chair was the name of Fulton, and on the left that of Franklin, each painted in large letters, and encircled with appropriate emblems. The dome of the hall was decorated with festooned banners, and a profusion of beautiful flowers from Winships' gardens adorned the tables." The president of the association presided at the table, and after giving the customary sentiment in remembrance of the association, gave the following: — "*Our venerable guest, the honorable John Quincy Adams.* Blessed with an energy of mind and vigor of constitution, which impart the activity of youth to the solidity of age, — may the constitution of our country be as sound in its old age as his own." Mr. Adams rose amidst the unanimous acclamations of the company. When the applause subsided, he spoke for a few minutes with great emotion. He alluded to the progress of the mechanic arts, and contrasted their condition *now* with what it was in times gone by. He spoke with approbation of the objects of the association, and especially of the charity, which is a prominent element in its constitution. He concluded with the following sentiment: — "The union of ART, the pride of human intellect, with CHARITY, the glory of the human heart."

The governor of Massachusetts, the judiciary, the clergy, the navy, the army, and universal education, were themes of succeeding sentiments. The last was responded to by Mr. Quincy, the president of Harvard college. The mayor of Boston and the orator of the day responded to appropriate sentiments. To "*The original members of the association,* — honor to the memories of those who are gone, — prayers for the happiness of those who remain, — gratitude for the labors of all, while *we* enjoy the fruits of their success," the aged and venerable Benjamin Russell expressed the pleasure he felt at seeing the success of an institution, to which he and a few remaining colleagues had devoted their energies in early life, and gave as a sentiment, — "The mechanics of small days

and small things, say to the mechanics of these days, 'be sure you are right; then go ahead.'" Mr. Cushing, member of Congress, replied in behalf of the delegation, and Mr. William Sturgis answered for the merchants. A sentiment complimentary to "*Our mother England*," called up Mr. T. C. Grattan, the newly-appointed consul for the port of Boston, who made a speech full of patriotism and reciprocal good feeling. Other sentiments were given, other speeches were made, and original songs were sung. Among the songs was one written by Henry J. Finn, enumerating, in doggerel rhymes, the principal articles which were exhibited at the Fair. Another was a string of "Yankee Notions," full of puns and witticisms, in which George Andrews, a favorite actor, managed to "set the table in a roar." The following is of a different character, and is worthy of preservation: —

Now ring the echoes round the hall,
  And pour out every heart;
And crown this flowing festival
  To Industry and Art.
Of conquering swords and blood-earned fame,
  The world has had its fill:
We triumph in the glorious name
  Of Genius and of Skill.

O count thee blest, my native land,
  In what thy race have done;
Nor ask Arabia's breezes bland,
  Nor India's summer sun.
Thine are a thousand hamlets fair,
  Where peace unfolds her wings,
And high-souled children, born to bear
  The palm for princely things.

No diamonds load New-England's hills,
  No beds of sparkling ore,
No golden sands adorn the rills
  That down her mountains pour:
But hands can toil with potent charm,
  And tides of riches roll,
Where Genius strings the manly arm
  And prompts the inventive soul.

Let kings the trump of battle sound,
  And chill their slaves with fear;
Let red Ambition stain the ground,
  And sweep its mad career:
Let conquerors lift their sinking hearts,
  With victory's flag unfurled: —
Be ours to claim immortal arts,
  That grace a peaceful world.

The total amount of receipts from the Fair was *Sixteen thousand six hundred and thirty-seven dollars and twenty-five cents:* * — the expenditure was *Eight thousand seven hundred and six dollars and eleven cents.* This sum was kept separate from the general fund, and the treasurer's account exhibited the following investments: —

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 70 shares in the Boston Bank, at par value, | | $3,500 00 |
| 20 | " Union Bank, . . . . | 2,000 00 |
| 25 | " New-England Bank, . . | 2,500 00 |
| Cash on hand, . . . . . | | 191 14 |
| | | $8,191 14 |

It was deemed advisable, by the government, to keep the money received from this source distinct from the general fund, in the hope that, at some future time, it might be desirable to invest the whole in such a building as might be useful and honorable to the association.

According to the treasurer's account, the following members died during the year: — Benjamin Brown, Jonathan Whitney, † William King, ‡ Jonathan H. Wheeler, Jotham Wade, Gedney King, ‖ William B. Annin, E. L. Tead, Ebenezer Scott, and Charles S. Holland. Six members were

* Including a balance of *Seven hundred and thirty-three dollars and nineteen cents,* on hand from the Exhibition of 1837.

† Jonathan Whitney was born in Lancaster, March 27, 1771, and served an apprenticeship with a bricklayer at Claremont, N. H. In 1790 he removed to Boston, and formed a partnership with an old fellow-townsman, Peter Osgood. This partnership continued many years, and was dissolved when embarrassments crowded on the partners and rendered dissolution indispensable. Mr. Whitney, however, recovered his wonted energies, and acquired a handsome property. He was an officer in the militia, and succeeded his friend Osgood as a lieutenant-colonel. He was a zealous Federalist, and was several times a representative in the Legislature. He died at Brighton in 1839.

‡ Dr. William King was a celebrated electrician, and claimed to be the inventor of the method, now in general use, of securing buildings from the effects of lightning by means of pointed rods.

‖ Gedney King, the son of Gedney King, was born in Salem, August 31, 1777, and died July 31, 1839. He served an apprenticeship in his native town with a mathematical instrument-maker, and carried on that business in Boston about thirty years. He held the office of fire-ward, overseer of the poor, representative, and trustee in the Provident Institution for savings. He was a popular military officer, and commanded the Boston Light Infantry when that company was in the height of its fame. He was highly esteemed as a member of our association, for his private virtues, and many agreeable social qualities.

honorably discharged at their own request; and the names of twelve were erased for long delinquency. Seventy-two persons were admitted: —

Joseph Stark, Draper and Tailor.
Jacob Smith, Cabinet-maker.
Bela P. Page, Bricklayer.
Job F. Bailey, House and Ship-joiner.
William Harlow, jun. Stone-cutter.
John Roberts, Stone-cutter.
Levi Boles, Carpenter.
William Washburn, Carpenter.
Robert Slade, Wheelwright.
Josiah Faxon, Sail-maker.
Jabez Coney, Engineer and Mill-wright.
John P. Fairbanks, Bookbinder.
Adam W. Thaxter, 3d. Bookbinder.
Thomas R. Peck, Medford, Hatter.
Andrew Kitchen, Hairdresser.
Uriah Hedrick, Cooper.
Swain Winkley, Tailor.
Charles A. Smith, Tailor.
John H. Thorndike, Architect.
Luther Mason, Stone-cutter.
Nathaniel Francis, Pump and Block-maker.
Joseph S. Hicks, Charlestown, Machinist.
Issachar A. Green, Cambridge, Leather-dresser.
Alfred Mudge, Printer.
John D. Evans, Printer.
Alexander Anderson, Mason.
Nathaniel Hill, Carpenter.
Reuben O. Sprague, Stair-builder.
Richard M. Baker, Sailmaker.
Obadiah Rich, Silver-smith.
Charles A. Sweet, Chaise-maker.
Joseph G. Russell, Cabinet-maker.
John Campbell, Watch-maker.
William Pratt, Watch-maker.
David Clapp, jun. Printer.
Isaac S. Hill, Machinist.
Ansel Lathrop, Stair-builder.
Lyman Kingsley, Iron-manufacturer.
Robert M. Clouston, Housewright.
James G. Hovey, Comb-maker.
Samuel Hall, Ship-builder.
Stephen M. Allen, Stove-manufacturer.
Anson Dexter, Cap-manufacturer.
Frederic W. Lincoln, jun. Mathematical-Instrument-maker.
James Mitchell, Plasterer.
Moses McMurray, Brush-maker.
Henry K. Horton, Manufacturer.
Oliver Ditson, Printer.
Enoch Robinson, Whitesmith.
Joel F. Thayer, Machinist.
Albert C. Hobbs, Glass-cutter.
Francis Lecompte, Confectioner.
E. D. Caswell, Painter.
Henry P. Ingalls, Housewright.
John Clark, Plumber.
Robert H. Eddy, Civil Engineer.
John C. Clouston, Carpenter.
Loring Peterson, Carpenter.
Ebenezer H. Hitchings, Paper-hanger.
Charles Brigham, Coach and Chaise-maker.
Robert M. Copeland, Bookbinder.
Isaac B. Skinner, Tailor.
John Livermore, Cambridge, Soap-manufacturer.
Ebenezer Pratt, Carpenter.
George G. Gove, Cambridge, Currier.
John H. Weed, Tailor.
William H. Mackay, Piano-forte-manufacturer.
William Curtis, Newton, Paper-maker.
Nathaniel P. Ames, Springfield, Cutler.
James T. Ames, Springfield, Cutler.
John Borrowscale, Slater.

| | |
|---|---|
| The committee of finance reported that the amount of stocks and cash received was . . . . . | $24,199 30 |
| The treasurer paid out, during the year, . . . . . | 5,167 84 |
| Which, deducted from the amount on hand and sums received during the year, showed the balance in the treasury to be . . . . . | $19,031 56 |

Thus it appeared that the amount on hand was less by $248 65 than at the commencement of the year, although the sum of $830 had been received for admission fees, which should, in all cases be added to the permanent fund. The report adds, — "Your committee, in January, 1839, in strong terms, called the attention of the association to this subject, and recommended, at that time, that either the quarterages of the members should be increased to such an amount as would cover the actual expenses; or that those expenses should be reduced. That recommendation did not meet with favor in the eyes of the association; and your committee feel it to be their duty, again to urge the adoption of one or the other of these measures; and they trust that, at this time, it will not thoughtlessly be passed by. The government cannot be charged with want of economy or wasting the funds. It will be seen, by reference to the accounts, that the whole amount expended under the direction of the government was but $284; which amount was for ordinary and indispensable services, such as advertising, printing, distributing notices, in all of which the most rigid economy was practised. The other sums were expended by special votes of the association, or in accordance with provisions of the constitution."

The committee of relief had distributed $730, to twenty-nine widows of deceased members, and to three indigent members. The committee on lectures expended $738, and the committee on the school, $953 83.

# 1840.

Annual meeting, January 2. Officers for the year were elected, as follows: —

| | |
|---|---|
| Joseph Lewis, *President.* | Uriel Crocker, *Treasurer.* |
| Charles Leighton, *Vice-President.* | Henry W. Dutton, *Secretary.* |
| Jonas Chickering, | William Eaton, |
| Willard N. Fisher, | John G. Rogers, |
| Benjamin Beal, | Enoch H. Snelling, |
| Theodore Washburn, | Thomas Haviland, |
| John Wade, | *Trustees.* |

The subject of the finances was again adverted to by Mr. Darracott, and, on his motion, the government was requested to take the matter again into their consideration, and devise means to reduce the expenditures to the income. The government referred the subject to the committee of finance.

At the quarterly meeting in April, the committee on lectures reported that they had expended, for *ten* lectures, the sum of $420. They stated that much difficulty had occurred in obtaining lecturers; that the lectures had been but thinly attended; that it was the wish of some members that there should be a full course on some particular subject, scientific and experimental, and that others were content with those of a miscellaneous character. After deliberation in the government meetings, it was voted by the association, in September, that "the usual course of lectures be dispensed with for the ensuing season."

The school committee reported, at the same meeting, that the amount appropriated for their use ($700) they had not wholly expended, "unforeseen difficulties having occurred last year, which made it necessary for them to go beyond the appropriation, they have endeavored this year to economize, in order to balance it." The whole amount expended was $599.

A committee was appointed to make inquiries concerning the purchase of the Tremont theatre, for the use of the association. Another committee was appointed to negociate

with the city government for a lease of Quincy Hall. The negociation resulted in the lease of certain portions of that hall for three years, at an annual rent of $1,500. The object was to secure the hall for the Exhibition and Fair, which it was contemplated to hold every alternate year. A portion of the hall was leased by the association to a military company; the remainder was let, for one month, to the Bunker-Hill Monument Association, for the accommodation of certain Ladies, who held a Fair to raise funds to complete the monument.*

At the quarterly meeting, October 1, Mr. Fairbanks offered the following preamble and vote: —

Whereas the Ladies of this commonwealth, at the request of the directors of the Bunker-Hill Monument Association, have, by the most patriotic and unparalleled exertions, obtained a large sum of money for the completion of the monument, by means of a splendid Fair, holden in that portion of Quincy Hall, which is now leased to this association; therefore,

*Voted*, That the government be directed to tender to the executive committee of said Fair, the free use of said Hall.

The motion was advocated by the mover and Mr. Darracott, and opposed by Messrs. Fisher, Leighton, Bonney, and Carnes; and was carried, forty-nine to forty-four. On motion of Mr. Badger, the vote was reconsidered, fifty-four to forty-three. On motion of Mr. Fairbanks, the further consideration of the subject was postponed to the next quarterly meeting. At that meeting, it appeared that the treasurer of the Monument Association had paid the rent ($400) according to contract, and no further order was taken on the subject.

Obadiah Rich, a member, presented to the association, a Seal, cut on blood-stone by an eminent lapidary, "mounted with a handle and silver-socket," which was accepted, and duly acknowledged.

During the year the secretary collected and paid to the treasurer $1,006; and there was then due from the members,

* This Fair was the most brilliant and successful experiment of the kind which has been tried in New-England. The net amount of sales was about $30,000, which was paid to the Monument Association, and was expended in finishing that noble structure in 1843, — seventeen years from the laying of the corner-stone.

in quarterly assessments, $1,535 50, — a larger sum than was ever due at any former period. Thirteen persons were admitted to membership; a less number than at any former year for the last twenty years: —

Bradley M. Clark, Painter.
William Blakeman, Japanner.
Samuel D. Bates, Painter.
David Granger, Painter.
William J. Hobbs, Carver.
Joseph T. Bailey, Carpenter.
Azel Bowditch, Confectioner.
John Favor, Carpenter.
Warren Gill, Painter.
Lorenzo Prouty, Manufacturer.
John Boynton, Painter.
George W. Herrick, Machinist.
Frederick W. Folsom, Cordwainer.

Forty members were discharged for delinquency; two were allowed to withdraw; and the following deceased, viz: — B. D. Homes, Isaac Davis, Abner Bourne, Peleg Mann, Samuel Hart, and Benjamin Clark.

The receipts into the treasury, from bank stock and the secretary, amounted to $2,029 19; and the expenditure, for lectures, schools, relief, families of deceased members, and contingent expenses, was $2,493 67. The entire property of the association, including receipts from the two exhibitions, was $25,962 86.

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# 1841.

Annual meeting, January 7. Officers elected for the year: —

Joseph Lewis, *President.*
Charles Leighton, *Vice-President.*
Uriel Crocker, *Treasurer.*
Henry W. Dutton, *Secretary.*

Benjamin Beal,
Theodore Washburn,
William Eaton,
John G. Rogers,
Enoch H. Snelling,
Thomas Haviland,
John G. Roberts,
Henry N. Hooper,
Kimball Gibson,
*Trustees.*

"*Voted*, That the recommendation of the government, in relation to holding the Third Fair and Exhibition, in the month of September next, be confirmed, and that the govern-

ment constitute the committee, and have full power to make the necessary arrangements."

The government immediately began their arrangements, and prosecuted them with great energy. A circular, containing rules and regulations, names of standing committees, superintendent, &c. was published and extensively distributed, early in February.

April 16. A special meeting of the association, by order of the government., was held at the Exchange Coffee-House. The president stated the object of the meeting. On motion of Granville Mears, *Voted*, That J. T. Buckingham, Charles Wells, James Clark, William Beals, and G. Mears, constitute a committee to retire and prepare resolutions, to be reported to this meeting. Subsequently the committee, through their chairman, Joseph T. Buckingham, submitted the following preamble and resolutions: —

Whereas, it hath pleased the Almighty Ruler of the Universe, that all-controling power, by whom principalities and powers among men are ordained, and permitted to exercise authority over nations, — to remove by death the President of the United States, under circumstances which solemnly and painfully impress on the mind the uncertainty of human life, — the weakness of human strength, — the inefficiency of human skill, — the transientness of human glory, — and the disappointment and defeat, which await all human hopes and expectations, —

*Resolved*, That the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association most deeply and sincerely lament the decease of William Henry Harrison, the President of the United States; and while they deplore it as a national calamity, they view it as an event signally adapted to awaken the solicitude of the patriotic, — to subdue the turbulence of party spirit, — to invigorate the energies of the wise and prudent, — and to promote and strengthen a union among all good citizens and honest men, in support of the government and institutions of our country.

*Resolved*, That while we participate in the universal regret which pervades the whole community, we respectfully ask permission to mingle our sympathies with the sorrows of the family and relations of the deceased, — and to offer up our earnest prayers to the Eternal Source of comfort and consolation, imploring for them His favor and blessing, and beseeching him to alleviate the grief, which He alone can dispel, and to bind up the broken hearts, which He alone can heal.

*Resolved*, That the members of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, desirous of paying due honors to the illustrious dead, will assemble as a body, and unite with the City Government in the funeral ceremonies proposed for Tuesday next.

The preamble and resolutions were adopted without debate, and, in accordance therewith, the association, in full numbers, joined the procession, organized by the city authorities, in honor of the deceased President.

Preparations for the Exhibition occupied the government much of the time from the first of June till the twentieth of September, on which day it was opened at Faneuil and Quincy Halls, — the two edifices being connected by a bridge, as before. The bridge was built from a plan by Isaiah Rogers, a member of the association. A proposition had been made in the government to have a public address, on some evening during the exhibition; but it was rejected. Mr. Stephen Fairbanks was requested to make an address to the contributors and such members as chose to attend, at the United States Hotel, on the evening before the close. Mr. Fairbanks acceded to the request, and made a very brief and pertinent speech, which is printed with the reports of the various committees and judges. After announciation of the premiums, the members of the association treated themselves and their guests to an entertainment of good things, the best of which were extemporaneous speeches. Among the guests were delegates from the American and Mechanic Institutes of New-York, from the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia, the Mechanic Association of Troy, N. Y. and from the Mechanic Associations of most of the New-England states.

Nineteen gold medals, one hundred and sixteen silver medals, and three hundred diplomas were distributed among the contributors.

The receipts from the sale of tickets was *Fourteen thousand eight hundred and seventy-six dollars and seventy-five cents.* On adjustment of all the accounts, there was a balance of near fifteen hundred dollars to add to the fund.

When the finance committee made their report for the year, the amount of receipts, cash on hand, and stocks, was Twenty-three thousand two hundred and forty dollars and twenty-three cents. After paying all expenses, chargeable to the general fund, there was a balance of $870 83, carried to a new account.

Thirty-three persons were admitted, viz: —

John P. Ober, Cooper.
Thomas Sinclair, Brass-founder.
Jesse Bradshaw, Confectioner.
William G. Clark, Pump and Block-maker.
William E. Donnell, House and Ship-joiner.
Charles Bates, Housewright.
Isaac Babbit, Brass-founder.
Silas Buck, Carpenter.
Michael Regally, Watch-maker.
Abel Tompkins, Bookbinder.
Samuel Thaxter, Mathematical Instrument-maker.
George W. Brown, Shipwright.
Warren A. Hersey, Bricklayer.
John Dowell, Silk-trimming-manufacturer.
Albert W. Starbuck, Nantucket, Cooper.
Jonathan Pierce, Pump and Block-maker.
Thomas C. Savory, Painter.
Thomas Tirrell, Cordwainer.
Charles Choate, Woburn, Cordwainer.
William Choate, Cordwainer.
Ebenezer F. Cutter, Charlestown, Morocco-dresser.
John Webber, Roxbury, Rope-maker.
John Webber, jun. Roxbury, Rope-maker.
George Kingman, Sailmaker.
William Darton, Shipsmith.
Samuel Neal, Carpenter.
Levi Simmons, Housewright.
Charles S. Jacobs, Housewright.
Hezekiah B. Crocker, Housewright.
Walter Liveridge, Starch-manufacturer.
James Standish, Mason.
Samuel S. Reynolds, Milton, Morocco-dresser.
George W. Bazin, Printer.

Ten members were discharged, as delinquents, and thirteen deceased, viz. Thomas Rundle, John Allen, William Badger, Richard Caswell, Josiah Loring,* David Marden, Richard Austin, John Leman, James Wilson, David Ballard, John Mackay, Alanson Rice, and John Clapp.

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* Josiah Loring was born in Hingham, December 11, 1775. At a suitable age he was apprenticed to David West of Boston, to learn the trade of a book-binder. Immediately after the close of his apprenticeship, (in connection with a twin brother, who had learned the same business of William Andrews,) he began his career of successful industry. In 1803. the brothers separated. Josiah purchased of John Fairbanks the paper-ruling machine, and became a celebrated manufacturer of blank books, — a business which he industriously followed to the end of his life. He was never married; and soon after the death of Mr. Fairbanks, he purchased a house and received the widow as his housekeeper, and her children lived with her at his expense. His constitutional temperament was somewhat eccentric, and, to a stranger his deportment would sometimes appear to be affected by what is proverbially called *absence of mind*. An obituary notice in the Daily Advertiser said of Mr. Loring, — "Few men have been better known among us, and there have been few who have been more valued while living, and whose decease has been more generally lamented. His circle of acquaintance was extensive, and among them there were many who were happy to be ranked as his friends. Enemies he had none. Mr. Loring was an honest man, honest

# 1842.

[illegible] January [illegible]. The reports of committees for the past year having been disposed of, Mr. Crocker, who [illegible] the association as treasurer for the term of eleven years, declined a reselection. The government was then organized as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| [illegible] Lewis, President. | [illegible] Brewster, Treasurer. |
| [illegible] Vice-President. | Henry V. Dutton, Secretary. |
| [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] |

A vote of thanks to Mr. Crocker having been proposed, an amendment that something more substantial than a mere vote of thanks to so faithful an officer should be bestowed, was offered by Mr. [illegible]. The subject was referred to a committee, which reported that a piece of plate, not to exceed in value $[illegible], should be presented to Mr. Crocker. The report was accepted, and the same committee instructed to carry it into effect.

Mr. [illegible] proposed that the funds accumulated by the [illegible] and the general fund of the association, should be [illegible], as recommended by the committee of

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[illegible] He was a good citizen, of exemplary [illegible] He was truly benevolent; his ear was ever open [illegible] and hand ready to devise and afford relief. [illegible] his memory as their benefactor and friend; and [illegible] was rendered doubly precious by his quiet and unostentatious manner of bestowing his gifts. He was convinced early in his last sickness that his end was at hand, and having arranged his worldly affairs on the same benevolent principles which had characterized his whole life, he confidingly resigned himself to the will of his Heavenly Father, and cheered with the hopes of another and a better world, he met his death with calmness and Christian fortitude." Among the many acts of benevolence which have been attributed to Mr. Loring not the least remarkable is the fact, that a day or two before his death, he requested of his brother that he might be interred in his brother's lot in the Mount Auburn cemetery, as he wanted to bequeath his own lot to a widow, who was not able to buy one. This his last request was complied with, and his lot accordingly passed into the possession of the person he had mentioned.

finance. The motion was discussed in the government meetings, and referred to a quarterly meeting, when it was approved, and the two funds were consolidated.

On motion of Mr. Armstrong, a committee, consisting of Messrs. Armstrong, S. Fairbanks, G. Darracott, C. Leighton, and Isaac Harris, were instructed to "consider the expediency of permitting females to participate in the festivities at the next triennial festival of the association, by allowing each member to introduce a member of his family on that occasion." At the next meeting, the committee, by Mr. Armstrong, their chairman, reported: —

That the design of the triennial festival is to promote kind feelings, by mingling with each other at stated seasons, and partaking together, as brethren of one family, and children of *one Parent*, the bounty which has been bestowed upon us by that Parent. Your committee are of opinion, that it will enhance the accustomed enjoyment of such occasions, if those, who have shared in our cares and toils, and sympathized in our adversities, may also be partakers with us of the enjoyments which those toils have procured. Your committee deem it altogether unnecessary to argue the point, believing that the presence of ladies at our festival will be approved by every man of sense and taste, as well as by every friend of temperance. The presence of females will exclude all that can offend the most scrupulous on the score of morals, and will give the aid of our example toward establishing, for similar occasions, a mode of enjoyment, rational, delightful, and improving; and one that is in accordance with good taste, sound principle, and refined manners.

Your committee forbear to enter into details on the subject, as not falling within the limits of their commission. But they feel authorized to express the opinion, that Faneuil Hall will be found to be large enough for the company, and that the expense need not exceed that which has been usual in former years. These matters are, however, left to the appropriate committees, which the association may hereafter authorize for the purpose; and, in conclusion, they respectfully and unanimously recommend the adoption of the subjoined resolutions.

For the committee. SAMUEL T. ARMSTRONG.

*Resolved*, That it is expedient to invite ladies to participate in the festivities at the next triennial celebration in October.

*Resolved*, That each ticket, issued to a member, shall entitle him to admission, in company with a lady.

*Resolved*, That no ticket shall be transferable.

The report and resolutions were accepted; but some small difficulty lay in the way of the proposed arrangement. It

was thought that there was no hall in the city of sufficient capacity to accommodate so large a company as would be brought together on the occasion. After examination by a committee, it was found that it would be impracticable to seat at tables, in the customary manner, so many as would be disposed to partake in the festival, and the project was relinquished. A report was made to this effect by Charles A. Wells; in consequence of which the vote, accepting the resolutions reported by Mr. Armstrong in April, was reconsidered.

The philosophical apparatus, conveyed to the association by the Mechanic Institution was examined by a committee, who recommended that it be deposited in some safe place and insured. It consisted of the following articles: —

Atwood's machine, with clock and weights, complete.
Model of a water-wheel, in case, with regulator, complete.
Apparatus for spouting of fluids.
Electric machine and apparatus.
Mechanical powers, with six arrangements for the pullies.
Two frames, with levers, and arrangements for compound forces.
Condensing syringe.
Guinea and feather glass, and drop.
Plate and sliding rod.
Six glasses, for various purposes.
Paradox plate.
Stand and weight, illustrating power of expansion.
Freezing apparatus.
Tunnel for mercury.
Hunter's screw.
Stand with endless screw apparatus, with weights, &c. complete.
Stand and three discs, for centre of motion and centre of gravity.
One double-barrel air-pump.
Pair of water-pumps, lifting and forcing.
Hemispherical cups.
Bell for vacuo.
Working model of a steam-engine.
Model of a capstan.
Model of a windlass.
Pair of scales for scientific purposes, in glass case with weights, complete.
Barometer.
Four large glass cases.
Model of hydrostatic press.

At the meeting in July, the committee on schools made a eport, embracing some interesting details, which follow, and which are presumed to present a fair view of the schools as hey were generally constructed: —

The committee appointed to take charge of the schools, for the year 1841–2, report: —

That soon after their appointment, measures were taken to establish a school for writing, arithmetic and drawing. Your committee made diligent search, both by advertising in the public papers, and by personal inquiry, for a suitable room for the writing school; but were unable to obtain one of sufficient size to accommodate so large a school as was desirable in a central location, and were necessitated to engage two rooms in building No. 109 Washington-street. An agreement was entered into with Mr. James French and Mr. William Rogers, to superintend and instruct the school. The first named gentleman to have charge of the writing and the other the arithmetic department. They were to furnish the rooms, fuel and lights, and to keep the school three evenings in a week, for the term of three months, for the sum of three hundred and fifty dollars. An agreement was entered into with Mr. S. F. Durivage, to open a school for instruction of two classes in the art of drawing, for the term of five months, each class to be taught two evenings in each week, during the term. Mr. Durivage to furnish room, fuel and lights, and give instruction, for the sum of Four hundred dollars. The committee established, for the government of both schools, rules, which were printed and distributed to each member of the association. They also established for themselves rules, which required two of their number to visit the schools each week during their continuance. The drawing school was opened on Monday, the fifteenth of November, and regularly continued, with the exception of a short interval, in consequence of fitting up a new and more convenient room, to the end of the term. The whole number of scholars entered into this school was forty-seven, which were divided into two classes. The average attendance was twenty-eight. At the close of the school, twenty-eight of the pupils exhibited over two hundred specimens of drawing, many of which were highly creditable, and gave evidence of a knowledge of the art, which will doubtless prove highly serviceable to them, whatever sphere they may be called to fill in society. Your committee feel much pleasure in being able to say, that in their opinion this school has been highly beneficial; the young gentlemen who attended it appeared to appreciate its advantages, and were devoted in their attention. Of the teacher, Mr. Durivage, your committee would speak in terms of high praise. He at all times manifested a strong desire to afford to each pupil every facility to pursue his studies, both profitably and pleasantly.

The schools taught by Messrs. French and Rogers were opened on

[illegible]

| | |
|---|---|
| [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | 450 00 |
| [illegible] | 5 37 |
| [illegible] | 7 61 |
| [illegible] | 13 75 |
| [illegible] | 12 00 |
| [illegible] | 111 87 |
| | $1,000 00 |

[illegible] For the committee.

CHARLES A. WELLS, *Chairman.*

The report was accepted; and a vote was immediately passed appropriating One thousand dollars for schools the approaching season. It was also voted, that the school com-

mittee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a *permanent* school for instruction in writing and arithmetic the ensuing year. They were also instructed to report the names and attendance of the scholars attending the school the next year.

Twelve members were chosen to be joined to the government as a committee of arrangements for the triennial festival. The meetings of the committee were numerous, and there was much discussion in relation to certain proposed variations from the usual mode of celebrating the occasion. At the meeting of the association in June, Mr. Marvin moved, "That it is the sense of this association, that wines, as well as all intoxicating liquors, be dispensed with at the triennial festival." The motion was debated long and warmly, when, on motion of Mr. Marvin, the meeting was adjourned for one week, and the secretary was directed to give notice of the meeting in the newspapers.

At the adjourned meeting another long and animated debate occurred, after which the question was taken by yeas and nays, and carried in the affirmative, fifty-two to forty-two. This would seem to be sufficient to put the matter at rest, for the time, at least; but at the next meeting of the committee of arrangements, the sub-committee, appointed to contract for the dinner, asked for the opinion of the general committee, on the vote passed by the association. Another debate took place, and was apparently producing some unpleasant excitement, when, on motion of a member, it was voted, "that the sub-committee on the dinner proceed forthwith to make arrangements for an entertainment, in the usual manner." Thus shifting the responsibility from the general committee of twenty-five to .a sub-committee of five members. No further information on this vexatious matter is furnished by the records; but it is certain that wine was not excluded from the table.

The twelfth triennial festival was held on the sixth of October. The association met at Concert Hall. The procession was organized by Charles G. Greene, chief marshal, and proceeded to the Melodeon. The address was delivered by

[illegible] the most aged of your associates, to solicit the

devotion of a moment, to the consecration of a memorial of such departed worth?

Although my hearing is defective, I can *feel* the affirmative response. I will then, Mr. President, with your permission, and that of my brother associates, offer the following as an oblation:—

"The sacred memory of Paul Revere, Jonathan Hunewell, John Cotton, Edward Tuckerman, Francis Wright, Samuel Gore, Edmund Hart, and Zachariah Hicks, original members, elected by their fellow associates, during a long series of years, to high and responsible offices of the association, meriting and receiving their highest confidence and unanimous thanks; and now enjoying the blessed reward of faithful and successful services, in another and a better world."

You well know, Mr. President, that many more departed mechanic worthies, who have done honor to the offices to which they have been elected, and advanced the best interests of our association, might be added to the list. They cannot be forgotten, and will long live in grateful recollection. But the enumeration might take more time than can be allowed to one subject, however dear and interesting.

Still, Mr. President, I must ask your kind indulgence for another moment, to give utterance to my feelings in regard to our departed sires. Most of them enjoyed the blessing of health, in addition to long life. Some of them exceeded by many years the limit of sacred writ, in the enjoyment of numerous friends, and the comforts of life. Industry, improvement, and perseverance in their callings, were added to benevolence and true charity to their fellow citizens;—their patriotism was in the tented field of war—in peace, the halls of legislation. They defended the liberties, and advanced the prosperity of the nation; and steadily advocated, by their votes, if not by their speeches, the great principles of constitutional liberty, law, and order, which had been cradled in this consecrated hall, in which we now so peacefully and happily enjoy the fruits of their labor. In improving the merchanic arts and manufactures; in building, rigging, and arming our glorious navy, then in its infancy—Old Ironsides being especially their work;—and in the strong advocacy of the constitution, they did much to promote the glory, and advance the prosperity of their beloved country; and it is but justice to add, that in an eminent degree, their country cherished and honored them. May all who love their memories, imitate their virtues and labors, and like them, be entitled to be held in reverence and regard by all succeeding posterity.

The committee on lectures reported, that, in their opinion, it was inexpedient to recommend a course of lectures for the ensuing season,—which was agreed to.

The report of the committee of finance, for the year, exhibited in detail the following statement:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Certificates of bank stock in the treasurer's hands Jan. 1, 1842, | | $18,720 00 |
| Cash on hand, . . . . . | | 870 83 |
| To which was added, by vote of the association, the funds accruing from the several exhibitions, . . . . . | | 13,088 83 |
| | | $33,475 66 |
| He received, during the year, from, — | | |
| Bank dividends, . . . . . | $1,782 10 | |
| Assessments and admission fees, . . . . | 1,175 50 | |
| Sale of tickets to festival, . . . . . | 880 00 | |
| Rent of Quincy Hall, . . . . . | 1,674 78 | |
| Sale of settees, &c. . . . . | 686 00 | |
| Donation from Mrs. Thaxter, widow of S. Thaxter, | 39 00 | —6,237 38 |
| | | $39,713 04 |

During the same time, the treasurer disbursed the following sums: —

| | |
|---|---|
| To the committee of relief, . . . . . | $900 00 |
| " " on lectures, . . . . . | 622 36 |
| " " on schools, . . . . . | 895 37 |
| To families of deceased members, . . . . . | 520 00 |
| Plate presented to the late treasurer, . . . . . | 300 00 |
| Secretary's salary, . . . . . | 150 00 |
| Triennial festival, . . . . . | 1,131 98 |
| Printing, &c. . . . . | 434 14 |
| Rent of Quincy Hall, . . . . . | 1,325 00 |
| Expenses of former exhibitions, . . . . . | 460 99 |
| | $6,739 84 |

The treasurer had a balance of cash on hand of $1,253 20, which, added to the bank stock at par, amounted to $39,713 04.

Of this amount the secretary collected, in assessments $1,875 50, and for admission fees $180. There was still due from the members the enormous sum of $1,802 50, — a greater sum than had ever been due before at any one period, — a fact certainly not very creditable to their character for punctuality.

The report of the committee states there were fourteen deaths of members during the year; but the treasurer's account gives the names of only nine, viz: — Nicholas Tower, Samuel Darling, William Bishop, Ebenezer Waters, John C.

Clouston, Oliver Fernald, Zachariah Hicks, Augustus S. Dowley, and Samuel Thaxter.*

Three members were discharged at their own request, and one for delinquency. Eighteen candidates were admitted:—

Nathan Wheeler, Carpenter.
Asa Davis, Mathematical Instrument-maker.
Lemuel Lyon, Hatter.
James L. Jones, Tin-plate-worker.
Peter Hobart, jun. Carpenter.
Francis Brendy, Mason.
Charles Woodbury, Mason.
Lemuel Miles Standish, Mason.
Gustavus A. Goddard, Shipsmith.
George Hews, Piano-forte-maker.
William Mitchell, Cordwainer.
Joseph L. Drew, Gold-beater.
Joseph M. Wightman, Philosophical Instrument-maker.
John Marland, Andover, Manufacturer.
George Ford, Blacksmith.
Collins Stevens, Last-maker.
David Miller, Black and White-smith.
Joshua Holden, Painter.

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# 1843.

Annual meeting, January 5. The following members were elected to constitute the government: —

James Clark, *President.*
Jonas Chickering, *Vice-President.*
Osmyn Brewster, *Treasurer.*
Henry W. Dutton, *Secretary.*

John G. Roberts,
Henry N. Hooper,
Kimball Gibson,
Henry K. Hancock,
Roland Cushing,
Ruel Baker,
Billings Briggs,
Job Turner,
Asa Swallow,
*Trustees.*

A special committee, appointed in October, of which Mr. Darracott was chairman, submitted a report, — stating that,

* Samuel Thaxter was a descendant from Deacon Thomas Thaxter, who emigrated from England and settled at Hingham, in 1635. His father was Samuel Thaxter, a trader in that town. He was born there, December 13, 1769. He served an apprenticeship with William Williams, a manufacturer of mathematical and nautical instruments, in Boston. Mr. Thaxter carried on that business from the age of twenty-one till near the close of his life, — many years at first, by himself, and afterwards in connection with a son. His term of membership in the association was brief, — commencing in 1841, and ending at his death, April 10, 1842. He was a respected member of the Masonic brotherhood, and, as a citizen, was noted for modest demeanor and probity and punctuality in all the concerns of business. His widow returned the funeral fee to be placed in the fund.

in their opinion, the time had arrived, when the honor as well as the best interests of the association required that they should have a hall, suitable rooms for a library and models, and such other conveniences as are required for an association composed of nearly eight hundred mechanics and manufacturers; — that as several places were then known on which a suitable building could be erected; — and as present prices of materials for building, rendered the present a favorable one to commence such an operation; — they recommended to the association, that a committee be forthwith chosen and fully authorized to purchase such a lot of land as, in their opinion, would be suitable for the erection of such a building as would meet the wants of the association; and that the treasurer be authorized to pay on their warrant the sum of Five thousand dollars, whenever the same may be required to enable them to complete such purchase."

The report was accepted by a unanimous vote, and the government, with the following members were constituted a committee to act jointly in carrying out the provisions of the report, viz: — John P. Thorndike, William Eaton, Nathaniel Hammond, John G. Rogers, Isaac Harris, Thomas J. Shelton, Thomas Moulton, Robert Bacon, Clement Willis, Charles A. Wells, Jonathan Preston, and Uriel Crocker. The committee met for the purpose of organization and appointed sub-committees, to make inquiries and surveys; but nothing appears to have been effected during the year.

Pursuant to instructions from the government, an apartment in the Merchants' Exchange was hired at a rent of $200 a year, to which all books of record, reports and other documents, copperplates, seals, philosophical apparatus, &c. were removed, and the secretary was empowered to take the entire charge of the room, opening it for the use of the government and any committees that might require it. The regular monthly meetings of the government were thenceforward held in that apartment.

Mr. C. C. Nichols, a member of the association, then residing at Northampton, made a tender to the association of a collection of valuable books, to found a library, which was

referred to the committee on the library. At a subsequent meeting, it was voted, on motion of Mr. Hooper, "That the library committee be requested to ascertain whether the association ever owned a library, and, if so, how it was obtained, and what disposition was made of it." These instructions produced the following report: —

The committee on the library, to whom was referred the subject of a letter from Mr. C. C. Nichols, offering as a donation to the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, a valuable set of books, in case they deem it expedient to establish a library for the use of the members, beg leave most respectfully to report: —

That they have attended to the duty assigned them, and have thoroughly examined the records relative to the Apprentices' Library, and find that it was commenced by a donation of fourteen hundred volumes from Mr. William Wood, expressly for the establishment of an apprentices' library, to be used solely by them, but under the control of the government of the association. Your committee find that to this munificent donation of Mr. Wood, the association have from time to time made many valuable additions, and that in July, 1826, a donation of Two hundred dollars was received from Mr. Thomas Eaton; and at different times several other individuals have made valuable donations, which makes the library, at the present time, a very valuable one, besides being of great advantage to that class of young men, our apprentices, for whose benefit all the valuable donations have been made.

Although your committee find that the whole expense of the library was for many years paid by the association, and that for a considerable time the members of the government were required to take their turns once a week, to give out books to the boys and receive them when returned; yet all this seems to have been done for the benefit of their apprentices, which was certainly most laudable and praiseworthy. This system was carried on until April 11, 1832, at which time the whole library with all its appurtenances was put into the hands of the Apprentices' Library Association, to be managed solely by them, so long as they do not abuse it; and since the above date, your committee are happy to find, that they have, in a most praiseworthy manner, conducted all the business of the library without any expense (except insurance) to the association.

Your committee were instructed to ascertain on what terms the association hold the apprentices' library; and, after a strict examination, it is their opinion, that they hold it only in trust, for the sole benefit of their apprentices.

Your committee feeling conscious that a well regulated library, to which all the members of the association could have free access, would be for their moral and intellectual improvement; and, provided the association succeed in their present anticipations of building a hall, so that

they may have a permanent place for the establishment of such a library, your committee would most earnestly recommend that the association accept the donation offered by Mr. C. C. Nichols, as the commencement of such a library, on the terms he proposes. But as the association is situated at present, without a permanent home, and the establishment of a library would subject them to much inconvenience, by unnecessary removals, &c. your committee are of opinion, that the establishment of a library at the present time would not be practicable.

Respectfully submitted. J. CHICKERING, *Chairman.*

*Boston, June* 14, 1843.

An attempt was made to procure from the funds of the association, or from the receipts of the next exhibition and fair, a donation of One thousand dollars, to aid in the purchase of a telescope for Harvard College. The application was referred to a committee who reported in favor of it; but when submitted to the association, it was indefinitely postponed.

The lease of Quincy Hall was renewed for another term of three years. Several portions of it were let to companies and individuals, the amount of whose several rents was $1,712 50: — the association reserving the right to use the premises for an exhibition and fair, should they deem it expedient to do so.

The association accepted an invitation from the Bunker-Hill Monument Association, to join in the public ceremonies to take place on the Seventeenth of June, in honor of the completion of the monument. A committee was appointed to procure a suitable standard to be borne in the procession. While the standard was in the hands of the artist, Mr. Armstrong signified a desire to make a present of it to the association. At nine o'clock on the morning of the seventeenth, about two hundred of the members assembled at Tremont Hall, and walked in procession to the residence of Mr. Armstrong in Beacon-street; and being drawn up in front of the house, Mr. Armstrong appeared on the steps with the banner in his hand, and made an appropriate address, — observing that he availed himself of the glorious occasion, from a long attachment to the association, to bestow upon it, as a memento of the day, the banner which he held in his hand.

He closed, with a feeling expression of his fervent wishes for the prosperity of an association of which it had always been his pride to be a member. He then placed the banner in the hands of the president, who replied as follows: —

Respected and esteemed fellow associate: — In accepting this beautiful and appropriate banner, I tender to you for myself and in behalf of my associates, our united and cordial thanks.

This gift, Sir, is not to be estimated by its mere cost in dollars and cents; it possesses a value to us far above its pecuniary considerations. It is valuable to us as bearing that motto, to which you have so happily alluded. A motto, Sir, bequeathed to us by our venerated predecessors. Some of them took a prominent part in that great and glorious contest, which, (under divine favor,) secured to us the blessings we now enjoy; we esteem it valuable, Sir, as a token of your regard. And we prize it the more highly, coming, as it does, from one of our old, long tried, and faithful members; one who, like the great and ever memorable Franklin, has, by the force of his own exertions and the cultivation of his talents, raised himself from the humble station of the printer's boy, to occupy, and to adorn, some of the most important trusts in the gift of his fellow citizens.

And, Sir, we anticipate the hope, that the remembrance of this gift will prove valuable, by inciting in us, and in those who may succeed us, a renewed impulse, and a stronger desire, to emulate those virtues, and those exertions which have led to such happy and useful results.

In closing this brief reply, permit me again to thank you, and to assure you, that this tribute of your regard, and the kind sentiments, with which you have accompanied it, will be duly appreciated and held in grateful remembrance by your brother associates, and to express to you our best wishes for your continued prosperity and happiness.

Respected associate, (addressing the standard-bearer): You have been appointed to the high and distinguished honor of being the first to unfurl to the breeze this new and splendid banner. It is the gift of a friend and fellow associate, — a friend endeared to us for his private virtues and his public services. I need not remind you, Sir, how highly we prize it, but I entrust it into your hands with the fullest confidence that you duly estimate its value, and the importance of guarding, protecting, and if need be, of defending it, even to the hazard of your life.

The banner was then delivered to Mr. John Boles, (the standard-bearer of the day,) who made some appropriate remarks in reply to the president; and the association occupied its appointed place in the grand procession.

At the quarterly meeting, October 7, S. Fairbanks submitted the annexed preamble and resolution, which were unani-

unanimously adopted, and a copy ordered to be transmitted to Mr. Armstrong: —

"Whereas our much-esteemed associate and fellow-citizen, the Hon. Samuel T. Armstrong, has, in the exercise of his accustomed generosity and well-known public spirit, testified his attachment to, and his interest in, the prosperity of this association, by the present of a splendid and costly banner, —

Resolved, That the members of the association, by a formal vote, desire to record their cordial acceptance of the beautiful gift, so appropriately acknowledged by their worthy president, at the time of its reception, and to offer to their respected and much-valued friend, the donor, their heartfelt thanks, and their sincere wishes that the evening of his days may be as happy as his early life has been exemplary and useful.

In consequence of an application for aid to the library of the apprentices, a special committee was raised, who were directed to consider the subject, and report at the next meeting. The secretary was directed, by a vote, to state in the notification for the next meeting, that there would be a report from the special committee above-mentioned. A vote was passed, placing "*Three hundred dollars* in the hands of the committee, to be used in aid of the apprentices' library, if they deem it expedient." In behalf of the committee, F. W. Lincoln, jun. made a report, from which it appeared that "the committee had purchased for the use of the library about two hundred volumes, and expended One hundred and sixty dollars of the appropriation of Three hundred placed at their disposal, — asking permission to retain the balance in their hands for future use, if required;" — which report was accepted.

A strenuous effort was made to collect the arrearages of delinquent members, but, as the next report of the secretary evinced, with no success. A committee examined the accounts of the members, and found that there were about one hundred and fifty, whose arrearages amounted to more than Six dollars each. These accounts were placed in the hands of a collector; some of the delinquents paid, others promised, and eight, whose arrears amounted in the aggregate to One hundred and fourteen dollars, were "*dishonorably* discharged."

The government levied upon *themselves* an assessment of Seventy-five dollars, in equal portions on each member, towards the payment of the rent of the society's room in the Merchants' Exchange, where they had held their monthly meetings.

The net income for the year was $4,479 48; the expenditure, $4,488 47; the whole amount of funds, $36,447 68. The secretary collected in assessments $868, and for admission fees $105; total $973. The committee of relief expended in donations to forty individuals $1,060;—the school committee $900 19.

Eight candidates only were admitted, viz:—

George W. Haynes, Wheelwright.
Sherlock Spooner, Cabinet-maker.
Calvin W. Haven, Painter.
John Cushing, Mast and Spar-maker.
Alfred S. Sanborn, Carpenter.
Israel Larkin, Mast and Spar-maker.
Richard Paine, Springfield, Machinist.
Samuel Clarke, Plumber.

Three were discharged at their own request. Nine members died, George W. Skerry, Aaron Rand, Joseph Willcut, Andrew P. Young, Amasa Murdock, Josiah Parsons, Charles Lincoln, jun.* Christopher Gore, and Warren Gill.

In closing their report, the committee of finance say, "the amount due for assessments is $2,237, and exceeds the sum due at the close of the last year $534 43. Your committee feel impressed with the importance of having a more efficient and prompt mode of collecting the assessments, and recommend the subject to the attention of the government.

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* Charles Lincoln, jun. served an apprenticeship with Gerry Fairbanks. He was appointed, by Governor Lincoln, warden of the state-prison, and held the office some years. His performance of its duties showed him to be a man of mild, amiable, and humane deportment; but these virtues did not secure him from an unprovoked and violent death by the hand of a prisoner.

# 1844.

January 4. Annual meeting. "The president, from the special committee on the Hall, presented and read a report, which gave a full account of the doings of the committee, from the time of its appointment." The committee were requested to continue their labors. An attempt was made to discharge the committee, which was decided in the negative.

Resolutions, that the Fourth Exhibition of American manufactures, be held during the month of September next, — that the government be a committee with full power to make the necessary arrangements, — and that the sum of Five thousand dollars be appropriated for that object, — were offered by F. W. Lincoln, jun. and carried by a unanimous vote.

The following officers were chosen: —

James Clark, *President.*
William Eaton, *Vice-President.*
Osmyn Brewster, *Treasurer.*
Henry W. Dutton, *Secretary.*

Henry K. Hancock,
Roland Cushing,
Ruel Baker,
Billings Briggs,
Job Turner,
Asa Swallow,
Jonathan Preston,
John Boles,
William Stearns,
*Trustees.*

The first act of the new government was to direct the secretary to make out all bills amounting to Two dollars and upwards, and place them in the hands of a collector. Their next act was to propose rules and regulations for the Exhibition and Fair, and the adoption of the necessary preliminaries therefor.

April 11. Quarterly meeting. The president presented the following report: —

The committee appointed to purchase a site for a hall, for the uses of the association, and the safe investment of its funds, have attended to that duty, and ask leave to report: —

That soon after their re-appointment, they organized, and appointed a sub-committee consisting of five, viz. Messrs. Darracott, Rayner, McAllister, Preston and Briggs. This committee entered on their duty with renewed zeal and activity, and subsequently, at several meetings, report-

ed a number of lots of land, which were duly considered by the general committee, one of which, (the Masonic Temple,) the sub-committee were directed to purchase, at a sum not exceeding Fifty thousand dollars. This offer was made to the proprietors, and was by them declined. After a careful consideration, and an examination of all the lots known to your committee, which it was thought might answer the purpose, and the advantages of each discussed at full meetings of the committee, they have finally purchased the site on Bowdoin-square, corner of Bulfinch-street, known as the Boott estate, for the sum of Forty-six thousand dollars; five thousand of which is to be paid when the title is examined and proved satisfactory, and the balance when the deed is completed and possession given, which will be about the first of June next. The lot contains between sixteen and seventeen thousand feet of land; it is well situated, both for light and air, having an open square in front, and a street on the south-east side. It is not far from the centre of the present population of the city, and is large enough to put on a building sufficient not only for the present, but for the future growth and wants of the association. There is on the lot a large brick dwelling-house, extensive stables, &c. built in the most costly style, the materials of which are estimated to be worth from three to five thousand dollars. Your committee deem it a safe purchase, and possessing greater advantages, on the whole, than any lot that has come under their notice, and it is believed that the land alone will sell for as much as they gave for the whole if the buildings are taken off, and the land judiciously laid out into house-lots.

It will be recollected, that your committee were only authorized to purchase a site for a Hall, and no authority was given them to erect a building thereon. Having accomplished this difficult and important duty, it would ill accord with the views of your committee, or with what they believe to be the wishes of the association, to let the matter rest with the mere purchase of the land. They believe it to be for the interest of the association, now to proceed in this long-delayed project, the first step to which is now so favorably commenced. Entertaining these views, your committee trust, that they will not be deemed as transcending their duty, in recommending the passage of the following resolve.

All of which is respectfully submitted, by direction of the committee.

JAMES CLARK, *Chairman.*

The report was unanimously accepted. The following resolution was then proposed: —

"*Resolved*, That immediate measures be adopted to erect a building on the lot named in the foregoing report, in a style and of a size becoming the association."

The resolution caused considerable debate. Some members called for further information, and wished the committee

to propose a more definite plan, and to exhibit a calculation of the profits likely to accrue from the speculation; — one of the committee gave a full exposition of their views, of the advantages of the locality, its central and commanding situation, and the inducements that led the committee to make the purchase. Several members advocated the passage of the resolution, and it finally passed by a vote nearly unanimous. Mr. Fairbanks, after some preliminary remarks, submitted the following votes, which, after an unsuccessful attempt to amend them, were carried in the affirmative: —

*Voted*, That the resolution just passed, be referred back to the committee who reported it, with full powers to appoint a building committee, and adopt such other measures as may be necessary for the speedy erection and completion of the building, and that they be, and they hereby are, authorized and empowered to sell such portion of the land and materials as, in their judgement, will not be needed for the building, and that they be further empowered to raise money, by mortgaging the property, on such terms and for such time as they shall deem advisable; and also that they be authorized to receive voluntary subscriptions and donations from members and others, toward the object, on such terms and on such conditions as they may deem for the interest of the association.

*Voted*, That the president and vice-president of the association be and they hereby are authorized and empowered to sign, in behalf of the association, all papers which may become necessary to carry into effect the foregoing vote.

*Voted*, That the sum of Twenty thousand dollars, (in addition to the Five thousand already appropriated,) be appropriated towards the purchase of the land, and the erection of the building; and that the treasurer be, and he hereby is, directed to pay the same to the order of the committee, on the purchase of the site, when they shall require the same for the purposes aforesaid.

*Voted*, That the treasurer be, and he hereby is, authorized to sell, under the direction of the committee of finance, such portions of the stock of the association, as will be necessary to pay the foregoing appropriation.

*Voted*, That the committee be empowered to enlarge their number if they deem it expedient.

The Fourth Exhibition and Fair. Soon after their appointment, the government, acting as a board of managers, commenced operations, by subdividing their whole board into sub-committees, and assigning to each its peculiar duties. Circulars, setting forth the objects of the association, with

rules and regulations to be observed at the exhibition, were transmitted to all the principal manufacturing establishments in the New-England states. Charles A. Wells was appointed to the important office of actuary, and devoted most of his time during the summer to the undertaking, advising and co-operating with the managers. He visited many of the manufacturing towns, with a view of awakening an interest in the objects of the association, and inducing manufacturers and mechanics to send specimens of their goods and machinery. Faneuil Hall and Quincy Hall were united, as before, by a bridge, designed and executed by Caleb & T. W. Pratt, members of the association, for which the managers awarded them a gold medal. The exhibition was opened to the public on Monday, September 16. The opening was announced by the firing of a salute, by the Columbian Artillery. It was closed on Saturday evening, September 28. It was visited by more than sixty thousand persons, admitted by tickets. Including the contributors, judges, members of the association and their families, guests, &c. it was estimated that the whole number of visitors did not fall short of seventy thousand. The number of contributors to the exhibition was thirteen hundred and seventy-three, — an excess of two hundred and seventeen over the numbers at the preceding exhibition. Invitations to visit the exhibition were sent to the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, the American and Mechanic Institutes of New-York, and to all the mechanic associations in the New-England states. Many distinguished individuals were also present by invitation. The amount received for tickets of admission was Fifteen thousand one hundred and thirty-two dollars. On the evening of September 26, George Lunt, Esq. of Newburyport, at the request of the managers, delivered an address, on the progress of the mechanic arts, for which the managers awarded him a gold medal and a diploma.

| | |
|---|---|
| The entire receipts of the year, from the ordinary sources, and from the exhibition, were . . . . . | $20,806 65 |
| And the whole amount paid out during the year, . . . | 13,579 58 |
| Leaving a balance in favor of the funds of . . . . | $7,227 07 |

That portion of the gross receipts collected by the secretary consisted of $270 for admission fees, and $1,519 of the sum due for quarterly assessments.

The whole amount of the funds at the end of the year was $39,348 53.

George N. Briggs, governor of the state, was admitted an honorary member.

The committee of relief extended their charity to forty-one families, amounting to $1,026 10.

Thomas Tirrell, Charles C. Nichols,* William Curry, John B. Phelps, Josiah Faxon, George Redding, Jacob Amee, Samuel Stebbins, and Horace Dupee, appear, from the treasurer's books, to have died in the course of the year. Three members were honorably discharged, and twenty-six were discharged for non-payment of assessments. The following candidates were admitted:—

John Clarke, Plumber.
Ira Goodrich, Tailor.
James Dyer, Tailor.
Willard Sears, Carpenter.
James Fitch, Carpenter.
Charles O. Downing, Carpenter.
F. C. Raymond, Watch-maker.
James M. Raymond, Plumber and Glazier.
Andrew J. Gavett, Brass-founder.
Thomas Gooding, Brass-founder.
Joseph G. Johnson, Carpenter.
Enoch Plummer, Bridge-builder.
Charles C. Judson, Carpenter.
Thomas W. Pratt, Engineer.
Samuel T. Cushing, Mathematical Instrument-maker.
Alfred C. Childs, Gilder.
John Flanders, Woburn, Shoe-manufacturer.
George Coolidge, Printer.
William W. Emerson, Hairdresser.

* Charles C. Nichols was a native of Springfield, and learned the trade of a tailor in the shop of a Mr. Fowle of Northampton. He came to Boston soon after he was free, and set up business in partnership with Chester Clapp, an emigrant also from Northampton. The partnership continued many years, and produced, for both partners, competence, if not wealth. On its dissolution, about the year 1818, Mr. Nichols opened a store for the sale of fancy goods, and after a season retired to an elegant rural retreat at Northampton, where he ended his days. He never enjoyed robust health, but was always active and industrious, and accumulated a handsome property, which he enjoyed in a genteel and liberal manner. He had been a trustee and secretary of the association, and made several gifts to the library for apprentices. He gave evidence of public spirit by his contributions to promote improvements in his native town.

# 1845.

January 7. Annual meeting. The committee on the subject of a Hall offered a report of their proceedings, with the accompanying documents, as follows: —

The committee on the subject of erecting a Hall, respectfully report a brief statement of their doings up to the present time.

At the quarterly meeting of the association in April last, your committee reported that they had purchased the "Boott Estate," in Bowdoin-square, and that they expected to have the title deeds by the first of June then next ensuing.

The report was accepted by the association, and, after discussion, votes were passed giving the committee full power to make all the arrangements necessary for erecting the building thereon.

In pursuance of these votes, your committee immediately held a meeting, and after due deliberation appointed a sub-committee of five, to wit: Messrs. Darracott, Briggs, Turner, and McAllaster, to procure plans and estimates for the building, examine the title, &c. and to report to the general committee as soon as practicable. Owing to unforeseen difficulties in regard to the title of the land, the committee were not called together until the twentieth of December, at which time the sub-committee made a report, and in order that the association may have a full knowledge of the causes which retarded their operations, the report is herewith presented: —

"The committee who were directed to purchase for the use of the association the land and buildings on Bowdoin-square, known as the Boott estate, ask leave to submit to the general committee an account of their doings up to this time, and the reasons which have operated to produce so great a delay in completing the purchase. In order to make this clear to the committee, it will be necessary to give a short history of the whole transaction.

"It is known to the committee, that an agreement was made with Mr. J. W. Boott, to purchase the estate for a specified sum, and also that Mr. William Lawrence had agreed with the committee to purchase from the association such part of the land as they might not want for the use of the building, paying therefor a *pro rata* price per foot for whatever part might be deeded to him.

"By the will of Mr. Kirk Boott this estate was given to his wife during her life. At her death it was to revert to his children, with a proviso that if it was necessary for the comfort or support of his wife, this estate might be sold and a smaller one purchased for her use. Now as this want had not occurred, a deed would only be valid by obtaining a release from all the heirs at law, and as there had been some dissatisfaction on the part of

two of the heirs, they refused to join in the deed of release except upon certain conditions. To these conditions the executor demurred, and thus the whole business has remained *in statu quo* until Monday of this week, when a compromise among the heirs was effected, conditioning that [the] executor should resign his trust, and the property after the sale of the estate should be transferred to a trustee, who should hold the same for the benefit of those to whom it should be found to accrue.

"Now in this state of the case it was found necessary for the deeds to pass to some one during the continuance of Mr. J. W. Boott's executorship, for no one else could by the will be authorized to transfer the property, and the widow and two of the sons being in England, the papers for their signatures must be forwarded by the steamer which sailed on Wednesday, and as our legal adviser decided that a deed *in escrow* would not be valid, and as it would have been entirely out of the power of your committee to have explained to the general committee so as fully to have made them acquainted [with] the particulars of this intricate transaction, and have procured the funds for the payment, in the few hours which intervene between this compromise and the sailing of the steamer, there remained but one other course for the committee to pursue, viz. to find some person who had confidence enough in the purchase to take the deeds, pay for the estate, and keep it himself, provided the association should demur to the purchase in consequence of the delay, and who would re-convey to the association the quantity they might deem necessary at the same *pro rata* price which he gave for the whole.

"This, after some delay, William Lawrence, Esq. agreed to do, and the title to the estate now rests with him; and accompanying this report is a letter directed to one of your committee, offering to the association such part as they may decide to take, at the same price agreed on with Mr. Boott.

In behalf of the committee, GEORGE DARRACOTT, *Chairman.*

*Boston, Dec.* 20, 1844."

*Boston, Dec.* 19, 1844.

George Darracott, Esq.

Dear Sir, — I have taken a deed of the Boott estate, and am ready to give the Mechanic Association a deed of any part of the same which they may want for their own accommodation, at the price agreed upon with Mr. Boott, provided they determine on or before the first day of February next.

Yours with great respect, WILLIAM LAWRENCE.

Mr. Darracott, chairman of the sub-committee, also presented a letter from His Honor Martin Brimmer, expressing his deep interest in the erection of a Hall, and his desire to confer with a committee of the association on the subject.

DEAR SIR, — Feeling a deep interest in the erection of the Hall proposed to be erected by the Charitable Mechanic Association, I am desirous that it should be constructed on a scale commensurate with the requirements of the association, and that it should be at the same time an ornament and an honor to the city. A building of the description proposed will, as you inform me, exceed the present funds of the association. A plan is matured of raising forty or fifty thousand dollars in aid of the funds of the society, in a manner which I have no doubt would be most acceptable to the association.

I should be glad to confer with a sub-committee of the association upon this subject at as early a day as will suit their convenience.

Very respectfully your obedient servant, M. BRIMMER.

GEORGE DARRACOTT, Esq. *Chairman of Sub-Committee.*

*Boston, Dec.* 19, 1844.

Several plans for a building designed for the Bowdoin-square lot were also presented by the sub-committee, but, owing to the delay in obtaining a good title and the great uncertainty of its ever being obtained, the committee had not fully determined on either.

After a free interchange of views, the report, with the letters of Messrs. Lawrence and Brimmer, were recommitted to the same committee, to which the president was joined, with instructions to confer with His Honor Martin Brimmer on the subject, as expressed in his letter. This committee subsequently made a report, which is as follows: —

"The committee to whom was referred a report of the sub-committee on the subject of the purchase of land in Bowdoin-square, and also the letter of William Lawrence, Esq. and His Honor Martin Brimmer, touching the same subject, with instructions to call on Mr. Brimmer and ascertain his views, have attended to the duty, and briefly report: —

"That in their interview with Mr. Brimmer, he expressed a strong desire that the contemplated project of erecting a Hall which should be an honor to the mechanics and at the same time an ornament to the city, should be carried into effect, and that many others with whom he had conversed shared the feeling in common with him; that the subject had been much talked of, and that he had given great attention to it, and that he was fully authorized by one individual, (whose name he was not at liberty to mention,) to say that he would give *Twenty thousand dollars* towards the object, on the condition that the further sum of Twenty thousand dollars should be given by others, conditioned also that a school should be established in the building for the benefit of apprentices. He was also further pleased to say, that, from the interest manifested in the object, he had no doubt that this sum could be readily obtained, and that he would cheerfully render his aid towards its accomplishment.

"The result of this meeting was highly satisfactory to your committee, and left no doubt on their minds that the sum of Twenty thousand dollars

may be considered as already appropriated for the object, and that the further sum of Twenty thousand dollars will be forthcoming in season for the completion of the building, and the conditions such that the association will cheerfully comply with them.

"In accordance with this opinion, they recommend that the report committed to them be accepted, and the sub-committee who reported it be authorized to purchase of Mr. Lawrence, on the terms stated in his letter, such portion of the land as they shall deem necessary for the proposed building, and that they be instructed to report such other measures as they deem necessary for the erection of the building the coming season.

By order of the committee. JAMES CLARK."

After the foregoing was written, the committee received a letter from His Honor Martin Brimmer, which it will be seen corroborates the statement made by your committee, and which they now present as part of this report: —

*Boston, Dec.* 23, 1844.

Sir, — A gentleman of this city, understanding that the Charitable Mechanic Association are making preparations to erect a Hall for the use of the society and for other purposes, on a scale worthy the association and of the city, and learning that the means of the association are not at present adequate to the erection of an edifice of the proposed magnitude, and willing to associate himself and his name with an undertaking so honorable to the city and the mechanics of Boston, proposes, if it meets the approbation of the association, and not otherwise, to present to the association, for the purchase of a lot of land in Bowdoin-square and for the erection thereon of an appropriate building, the sum of Twenty thousand dollars, on the following conditions: —

1. That $20,000 more shall be raised for the same purpose.

2. That a school shall be kept for at least five months in the year, free to mechanics' apprentices, in which shall be taught the laws of motion, the principles of construction, the properties of matter, chemistry as connected with the arts and manufactures, drawing, with such other branches as the government of the association may deem essential to the education of mechanic apprentices, to be hereafter matured and arranged, and that the building contain rooms proper and convenient for these purposes.

These propositions are made on the supposition that they meet the previously entertained views of the committee and of the association, and for the purpose of enabling it to erect an edifice which shall be an honor to the society and an ornament to the city. If these proposals meet with the approval of the committee, I am prepared to take such future steps as shall enable the committee to carry the proposed plan into early effect.

With the best wishes for the welfare and success of the association and with the offer of my services to promote their interests, I remain your obedient servant, M. BRIMMER.

James Clark, Esq.

It will be seen that the report last read concludes in recommending that the sub-committee be authorized to purchase of Mr. Lawrence, on the terms stated in his letter, such portion of the land as they shall deem necessary for the proposed building, and to report such measures as they deem necessary for the erection of a building the coming season. After a free discussion, the question on accepting the report was taken by yeas and nays, and passed unanimously, — twenty-one members present.

By the foregoing statement it will be seen that, with the assistance of William Lawrence, Esq. the association were placed in a situation which left them at liberty to take as much of the land as they desired for their purpose, or if they determined not to take any, he would keep the whole; and that your committee voted unanimously to purchase the land.

It will also be perceived, by the letters that have been read, that an offer is made, by a gentleman of this city, through His Honor Martin Brimmer, (if it meets the approbation of the association,) to present to them the sum of Twenty thousand dollars, and assurances of assistance to raise a further sum of Twenty thousand dollars, is proffered by Mr. Brimmer, thus giving strong reason for believing that a large amount will be raised for the object, which, with the funds of the association and the amount it is fair to presume will be raised by individual members, will enable us to put up a building, and establish a school and other appliances, for the improvement of young mechanics, and be highly useful and honorable to the association, and a great benefit to those who are hereafter to occupy our places; and your committee cannot but hope that this generous and noble proposal will meet with your warmest approbation.

Your committee, having thus stated all the facts they deem essential, they close their report by expressing the hope that their doings will be satisfactory to the association, and that further time will be allowed them to complete the object of their appointment.

In behalf of the committee. JAMES CLARK, *Chairman.*

*Boston, Jan.* 2, 1845.

Thanks to Mr. Brimmer for his proffered services were unanimously voted. A committee, — president, vice-president and treasurer, — was appointed to confer with Mr. Brimmer concerning the aid proposed in his communications of December 19 and 23, towards the erection of the Hall.

The officers elected for the year were: —

George G. Smith, *President.* Osmyn Brewster, *Treasurer.*
William Eaton, *Vice-President.* John G. Rogers, *Secretary.*

Billings Briggs, William Stearns,
Job Turner, John Green, jun.
Asa Swallow, James Wentworth,
Jonathan Preston, Seth Simmons,
John Boles, *Trustees.*

Mr. Preston resigned in March, and the vacancy was filled by the election of William Washburn.

Fifteen hundred dollars were placed at the disposal of the committee of relief.

There was a special meeting of the government, January 6. "*Voted*, That the members of the association be requested to attend the funeral of the late venerated member and past president, the Hon. Benjamin Russell, on the eighth instant. *Voted*, That the president and vice-president be a committee to make all necessary arrangements whereby the association may participate in a becoming and respectful manner, in the funeral services of their late lamented brother member." Most of the members attended the funeral of Mr. Russell, and formed the prominent feature in the funeral procession.

The government directed the secretary to make out a quarterly statement of the condition of the "Blue Book,"* and report it to the government.

February 12. The treasurer received, and read to the government, a letter from the Hon. William Sturgis, enclosing a check for One thousand dollars: — which was accepted and suitably acknowledged.

February 19. The government appointed the following members "a committee to solicit and receive subscriptions and donations from members of the association," to aid in the erection of a Hall, viz: — Charles Wells, Samuel T. Armstrong, Daniel Messinger, Joseph T. Buckingham, Stephen Fairbanks, George Darracott, Joseph Lewis, James Clark, David Francis, John Rayner, Charles Leighton, Charles A. Wells, Jonas Chickering, Simon Wilkinson, Isaac Harris, Joseph S. Read, Enoch Hobart, John Wells, Seth Thaxter, Alpheus Carey, Benjamin Loring, James McAllaster, William Beal, and Uriel Crocker.

Quarterly meeting, July 3.† John Snelling offered the following preamble and resolutions: —

* A phrase which was frequently used to designate the book which contained the list of members, with the number of quarterly assessments due from each attached to his name.

† This meeting was held at the "Boott House," — that is, the house on the estate purchased for the erection of a Hall. The meetings of the government were generally held there during the year.

Whereas, by the death of Andrew Jackson, late president of these United States, the country has lost one of her distinguished sons, and, in common with the American people, and as members of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, we deeply deplore his loss, and sympathize with his afflicted family and friends: —

Therefore, *Resolved*, That we will accept the invitation, tendered by the city authorities, to join with them in paying the last tribute of respect to his memory for his services to his country, by a public demonstration, on Wednesday next. And that notice be given in the public papers of the city of the time and place of meeting, that may be agreed upon by the government.

*Voted*, That the above be entered upon the journal of the association.

In accordance with these proceedings a meeting was notified to be held at the Boott House, on the day appointed for the funeral ceremonies. Attended by about fifty members.

September 2. Special meeting. The committee appointed to confer with Mr. Brimmer, [see page 335,] presented the following letter from that gentleman: —

*Boston, Aug.* 26, 1845.

Sir, — In conformity with my offer to the committee of the Charitable Mechanic Association, to use my best endeavors to aid them in carrying into effect their views in relation to the erection of a Hall for the accommodation of the association, and for the reception of a free school for apprentices, &c. in conformity to the liberal views of the Hon. Abbott Lawrence, I caused, soon after the purchase of the Boott estate, a subscription book to be prepared, and application to be made to several gentlemen to give their aid in carrying out the design of the association. But, owing to the delay in obtaining a title to the estate and to some other circumstances, those exertions were for a time suspended. When the title to the estate had been acquired, and the association was prepared with plans, the subject was again assumed. A circular was prepared and sent to about forty gentlemen of known influence and liberality, stating the object of the association, and inviting them to aid by their liberality in carrying these views into effect. This circular, a copy of which is enclosed, was submitted to the president of the association, and met with his approbation. Mr. Caleb Hartshorn was employed to call on those gentlemen with a subscription book, and to receive their voluntary aid in promotion of the proposed measure. In consequence of the absence of many of the gentlemen from town, Mr. Hartshorn has seen only about twenty of the number to whom the circular was addressed; but I regret to say, that from those on whom Mr. Hartshorn has called, he has not received any subscription. Three thousand dollars have been offered by gentlemen, whose names are inscribed in the book which I now submit to the government, including Five hundred dollars from T. B. Wales, Esq.

whose name has not yet been added. In conformity with your request, I now transmit to you the papers in relation to the subject, in order that the government may have an opportunity of taking such measures as in the state of the case they may deem expedient. And I take this opportunity to express to you and to the government, my deep regret that so little success has attended the efforts which have been made to carry into effect the views of the association in relation to a project in which I feel a deep interest and which I deem so important to the progress and happiness of our community.

Very respectfully Sir, your obedient servant, M. BRIMMER.

GEORGE G. SMITH, Esq. *President of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association.*

Another special meeting was held, September 17, when "the president, in behalf of the government, read to the meeting a statement, embracing a full history of the doings of the "Hall committee," and the present position of the association in reference to the long-contemplated building, and especially with reference to the course and result of the doings of Mr. Brimmer in this matter." This document was unanimously accepted, ordered to be printed, and a copy transmitted to each member. The president was requested to call a meeting of the association, on the second Thursday of October.*

The statement of the president being thus disposed of, it was voted, on motion of Robert Bacon, (who introduced his motion with a few spirited remarks,) "That a subscription paper be now opened." "The result of this operation was an addition to the Hall Fund of Two thousand three hundred and sixty dollars, subscribed by about forty members in about that number of minutes."

The *Thirteenth* TRIENNIAL FESTIVAL, and the SEMI-CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY of the Institution were celebrated this year. The committee of arrangements, consisting of the government and twelve other members, were appointed in July, and executed their commission with energy and alacrity. The association held its business meeting, October 2, at the Boott House. After the transaction of the ordinary business of a quarterly meeting, a procession was formed by Henry N.

* The object of the proposed meeting, it is presumed, was to take some action on this statement of the president. It is also presumed that there was no meeting, as no further notice in relation to it appears on the record.

pper, chief marshal, two aids, and a sufficient number of stants, and proceeded to the Melodeon. The entrance of procession was saluted by a voluntary on the organ. An ropriate prayer was offered by the Rev. Chandler Robbins. e following hymn, written by Mr. Lewis G. Pray, was g by a fragment of the Handel and Haydn Society. An ress followed, pronounced by Frederic W. Lincoln, jun. l the following ode, written by Miss H. F. Gould, closed public services of the occasion.

HYMN — BY LEWIS G. PRAY, ESQ.

God of our Being! We
In love would raise to Thee
Our songs of Praise:
To Thee, from whom we came, —
Who wrought our wondrous frame, —
Lit up its mental flame,
With heavenly rays.

Thou mad'st the HAND! whose skill
Controlled by thought and Will,
Makes Art divine!
Which fells the monarch Tree;
Sets quarried Marble free;
Explores each hidden sea,
And darksome Mine; —

Which rears for Man a Home;
Which spans the classic Dome;
And lifts the Spire;
Which bids the Canvass breathe,
The Man, the Marble, leave;
Beauty its garlands weave,
While all admire.

By it, the wheel and flame
Extend old Ocean's fame,
By skill refined:
By it, the Thought which fires,
Shot through electric wires,
With speed no race e'er tires,
Goes where designed.

God of the Hand! may we
Use it for Man and Thee,
Through all our days;
To smooth the bed of pain;
Strike off the oppressor's chain;
Give Wisdom leave to reign:
And Thee the praise.

[illegible]

When God and of earth laid the wondrous foundation, —
The pillars and mount wrapt the firmament hung,
The stars of the morn sang, in glad exhilaration;
And thus — all the sons of God shouted for joy:*
In the nose wrak sublime
Hung the sister loops of time,
Their beams shedding warm on the young morning earth:
Sun and soft dewy moon
Shaped the grass, moves, and flowers:
As nature awoke, hymning Heaven at her birth.

When earth not been stained, till the deep's broken fountains
Were poured forth, and Nature was drowned on the stand,
The angels of Art sailed above the last mountains,
And bore in her bosom our hope on the flood:
Twas a bright pleasure-bow,
Telling Art thence would go
From glory to glory, in gardens to man;
Flying her golden bag
To the vast memory
Unknown, but for him in the world's mighty plan!

Her pupils are grand-master-builders of nations;
To kings give they mouse, sceptre, venture, and crown;
They spread earth and sea with her fair new creations;
They pray up the states that would else crumble down!
Freedom's broad banner waves,
Armor her foemen braves.
While, warm from the depths of the heaven-kindled heart,
Music wafts praise, to rise
Up the far-ringing skies
And all, as the gifts of man's good angel, Art!

Her son is the rich man: his race are his debtors:
The element list in his service, for them
He gives sight to Blindness, — to Learning, her Letters: —
To Plenty, her horn, and to Beauty, her gem.
Water and fire at strife
Give his fleet courser life.
When earth soon is compassed, — the deep quickly spanned!
Power and wealth sure are his,
In the fine mysteries
That move in the clay of his own plastic hand.

All hail, to the Craftsmen, with hands that can labor:
With arm nerved by purpose, and deeds spreading wide!
For these are the helper, the friend, brother, neighbor!
And poor but for them were the great world beside.
Ever be this their aim, —
In the cause and the name
Of man's Friend on high, that their works all be done,
Meekly who sojourned here,
Loved the poor, dried the tear,
And wrought, when below, as the *Carpenter's Son*.

'T is they give to Commerce her ark on the ocean,
To Science her wand, and her star-sweeping wing;
They give temple, altar, and book, to Devotion,
Through all earth proclaiming our Saviour and King.
By the fond sisters three,
Faith, Hope, and Charity,
The last still the first, breathing life for the whole;
Be a house theirs, that stands
High, and "not made with hands,"
Though earth melt, and skies pass away as a scroll!

Mr. Lincoln's address was admired for its modesty and appropriateness. It commenced as follows: —

Time flows on in its rapid and ceaseless course. Man can neither stay its progress, nor accelerate its speed. Now and then he leaves his footprints lingering upon the sand, "which seeing, we take heart again."

The custom of celebrating important events, of recalling to the mind the act which marks an era, of summoning the past to our companionship, and the present to its destiny, is wise and good; it is respectful to the memory of the age that has gone, it inspires faith in that which is to come. The river to its fountain. The race to its founders. Let the robust vigor of manhood retrace its steps to the sweet innocence of infancy.

We have assembled, Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of its institution. The sober cares of our several daily avocations have been laid aside, that we may consult upon their public influence and usefulness. We have come together upon this, our festival, to grasp each other by the hand, and to sit down to meat, at a common board. We hope to strengthen our sympathies, to brace anew the bands which make us one. A half century! fifty years in their course have rolled on to the ocean of eternity, but we need no whining monody upon their rapid flight. Every moment has been precious; but if, as it has passed, it has carried with it some deed of private beneficence or public spirit, the season should be one of joy and congratulation, and such be the emotions of the hour. Joy, not that the association has survived, has lingered so long, but that it has lived so well, and accomplished so much; the tears of private worth that it has dried, as well as the energy of public virtue it has inspired, alike bear testimony that it has, in some degree, been faithful to its day and generation. I apprehend that but few are aware of the measure of its deeds, or the amount of good influence which it has silently shed abroad upon this community. In tracing the history of its proceedings, I have been sorely perplexed, which most to admire, the wisdom of its designs, or their glorious results. Nearly every page of its records bears witness, not only that something was attempted, but something actually done.

This occasion is a civil festival; it is public and peculiar in its character; its morn, indeed, is not ushered in by the pealing of bells, nor is it

announced in monosyllable tones from the cannon's mouth. No train-band of armed men marshal your procession through our streets, for such demonstrations would add neither to its dignity, not its significance. The Mechanic Arts, whose beneficial results we this day memorialize, are the rich sources from which civilization and refinement spring. As mankind become enlightened, the victories of peace will be considered greater than those of war; the anniversary of a new invention, deserving of more remembrance than a bloody battle; and the first application of some power of nature to man's subjection, of more consequence than the conquest of rich provinces and walled cities. As the arts spread over the world, methinks I hear, as of old, the song of the angels, "peace on earth, good will to man." That sweet strain of the heavenly minstrels floats over the nations, which announced the advent of the Prince of Peace, our Saviour and our Lord, but whose social position among men was that of the carpenter's son.

Gentlemen, custom and the proprieties of the occasion, place some one of your number in the post which I now occupy. Your government has seen fit to select one of the youngest of your association for the high honor. Under such circumstances, the themes of the speaker should be aspirations rather than experiences. Advice should come from those whose years give the weight of authority, whose interest in the subject is confirmed by long continued labor in its behalf, and whose social position and rank would confer honor upon the association. Destitute of these requisites, not having arrived at that age when "discretion waits upon the judgement," pressed into the service by kindness, and a promise to be exonerated from the charge of presumption, the best thoughts, which the anticipation of the occasion has suggested, shall be laid before you, with the hope that you will pardon their weakness, in consideration of the motives that prompted them.

The progress of improvement in many of the mechanic arts was suitably noticed; the orator spoke of the early history of the institution, and paid a deserved tribute of respect to some of its original members, and concluded with remarks of an appropriate and suggestive character, — of which the following are a part: —

Under liberal forms of government, the tendency of the active minds of the citizens is, generally, towards two extremes, the conservative, and the radical; the proper proportion of each element, makes the most perfect system of government, and the wisest administration of its laws. The great middling interest is the safest repository of power; it is their influence which gives to government stability in times of peace, and proves its bulwark in times of war. They are essentially patriotic, for their salvation depends upon the purity and integrity of existing institutions. Disorganizing and agrarian projects find but little favor; they are alive

to the gentle spirit of reform; but the incipient, or open spirit of treason, finds but few supporters in their ranks. The mechanics, with the farmers of our land, constitute the great body of this class, and to them, are entrusted, in a great measure, the safety and perpetuity of republican institutions.

This association, starting upon its career so soon after the consummation of our country's independence, fostered and cherished by those, who, in council, or tented field, had labored with sacrifice, even unto blood, for its welfare, — this association, organized on such an era, and by such men, should command an influence commensurate with the patriotism of its founders, and the glorious success which has followed their labors.

It should excite a moral power, diffusing itself through the whole community. The change which its members achieve in the aspect of the material world, through their professional labors as mechanics, should be followed by a corresponding influence, by their example and conduct as upright and conscientious men. They should administer a stern rebuke as well to the seductive wiles of social morality, as to open political heresy and corruption. The soft and kindly virtues which adorn humanity, should harmonize with the strong intellectual and physical power which they so eminently possess: Alas! that so rich a soil should ever be choked with weeds, — a community, so affluent in blessings, be burdened with vice and folly. Our city is becoming one of the greatest marts of trade in the civilized world; the natural enterprize of her citizens is stimulated to its highest degree; her railroads, like the Appian ways of ancient imperial Rome, are pouring the richest products of the land and the sea into her lap. Is there not danger that her increased business may beget avarice, or engender luxury, and the hearts of her people be blasted through an intense and insane love of gold?

I have been informed by aged citizens, to whom this community look up as to fathers, whose venerable forms are rendered sacred, by a long life of integrity and usefulness, that our city has sadly degenerated from that high standard of moral excellence which formerly distinguished our business men, — our leading merchants and mechanics. That nice and punctilious sense of honor, that steadfast adherence to the right, whatever might be the consequences, have given place to the shuffling shifts and underhand manœuvres, which crowded marts and excessive competition have a tendency to engender. This opinion may be exaggerated, as age in the retrospect of the past often looks upon the former times as better than the present, and the memory lingers with peculiar fondness upon the scenes and actors of early days.

But I appeal to the experience of many who are present, if there is not some truth in this statement. Carry yourselves back to your early days, and do there not come up before you, in every department of active life, noble images of upright men? — men of the olden time, whose integrity was no more to be questioned than that of an apostle, and who would

have shunned the slightest temptation to a dishonorable act as a pollution of the deepest dye. Does it not seem that the proportion of men of this stamp is lamentably small? Every day do we not hear of some mean and contemptible trick and artifice, some transaction, as base as ever instigated the author of darkness, and these performed by men who wish to be considered honorable, and whose daily walks in our streets are greeted with smiles and seeming respect!

Let it then, Gentlemen, be the hallowed influence of your association, ay, its leading object, to foster and strengthen that noble and high standard of integrity, which befits Christian men, living in an era of unsurpassed civilization and refinement.

Dollars, piled high as Olympus, cannot compensate the soul for the prostitution of its noblest powers to the arts of chicanery and fraud. The least alloy of guilt renders the most ample fortune but dust and ashes. "What advantage to a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

Let not the motto of our association, "*Be just and fear not*," become an idle and obsolete idea, suited only to its early founders, and their contemporaries, but now, and through its whole existence, may it be significant of the character of every individual connected with it; and that *right arm* be symbolical that every nerve shall be strung, and every muscle exerted in defence of those principles of justice and truth, of which, the even *balance* upon our Diploma, is the representative.

After the public services, a procession was re-formed and proceeded to Faneuil Hall, where a sumptuous entertainment was provided. The few remaining original members,— Johonnot, Messinger, Mackintosh, Perkins, and Phillips,— all except Henry Purkitt, were present at the festival. The hall was splendidly decorated. About twenty-five guests, beside the original members just mentioned, were seated around the president's table. At a table adjoining were past presidents of the association,— Perkins, Armstrong, Messinger, Buckingham, Darracott, and Lewis. After the cloth was removed, Mr. Smith, the president, bespoke the attention of the company. He said he should not ask to be excused for not making a speech on the occasion, because he was fully aware that the longer he spoke the less would be his claim to be excused. He would, therefore, restrict himself to simply congratulating the gentlemen before him, upon the arrival of the institution, in which they all took so much pride, at its present age. He would congratulate them, too, upon its continued prosperity; but, at the same time, he would remind

the members that, in connection with great prosperity, a great amount of duty devolved upon them. The duties, he would briefly say, which pressed upon the members of the association might be divided into three classes, — those which related to their social obligations, their charitable obligations, and their obligations to themselves to improve and extend the cultivation of their own minds. He would not detain the assembly with any lengthy remarks on any of those topics, but would content himself, with reminding his friends of the association, that the success of their measures depended upon themselves. And finally, he expressed his hope that the exercises of this day might suffice to kindle and keep alive such a spirit, as would carry out the intentions of the founders, and advance the collective and personal prosperity of the members of the institution.

The company was afterwards addressed by Governor Briggs, Lieutenant-Governor Reed, Messrs. Edward Everett, Robert C. Winthrop, Peleg W. Chandler, and others. The following original songs, sung by amateurs, formed a pleasant part of the entertainment: —

THE MECHANIC — WRITTEN BY A. J. H. DUGANNE.

Lift up thy toil-worn hand,
Thou of the stalwart frame, and fearless eye!
Lift proudly now thine iron hand on high!
Firm and undaunted stand!

No need hast thou of gems,
To deck the glorious temple of thy thought,
Thou hast the jewels which thy mind hath wrought,
Richer than diadems!

Thou art our God's high-priest,
Standing before great Nature's mighty shrine,
For the whole world, the glorious task is thine,
To spread the eternal feast!

Even like the Hebrew Chief,
Strikest thou on the rock, and from its deep
Mysterious heart the living waters leap,
To give the earth relief!

Mighty among thy kind,
Standest thou, man of iron toil, midway
Between the earth and heaven, all things to sway
By thy high-working mind!

Thou canst delve in the earth,
And from its mighty caves bring forth pure gold;
Thou canst unwrap the clouds in heaven rolled,
And give the lightning birth!

Thou hast the stormy sea
Chained to thy chariot wheels, and the wild winds
Obey the o'er-ruling intellect that binds
Their rushing wings to thee!

Thou canst new bands create,
Where the wild rolling wave no mastery owns;
And the vast distance of opposing zones
Canst thou annihilate!

Lift then, thy hand to heaven!
Spread thy toil-sceptre o'er the sea and land;
Thou hast the world entrusted to thy hand,
Earth to thy charge is given!

SONG OF THE CRAFT — WRITTEN BY N. W. COFFIN.

Give us a song, the craftsmen cried,
A brave high song to-night,
That shall fill our souls with a living tide
Of glory and delight.
We ask not for a martial peal,
The pomp of pride and power,
But a measure that rings to the clink of steel,
To grace the festal hour.

Spirits of those whom the world's renown
Enshrines in a casket of light,
Lay by the harp and the golden crown,
To join with us to-night;
With us to-night, the hallowed names
Of Franklin, and Fulton, and Watt,
Arkwright, and Whitney, and Davy, whose fame
Is the pride of palace and cot.

Noble is he whose sinewy hand,
The instrument of art
Grasps with a high and firm command,
With a strong and a merry heart:
The sound he rings from the metal shaft,
His patient skill hath wrought,
Is a music sweet to the sons of craft,
The cadent measure of thought.

What is a king with his courtly train?
The king in his marble hall!
Measured by him who, through pleasure and pain,
Lifts upward the granite wall.
The trowel shall live when the sceptre is gone,
And the monarch sleeps in shame.
The artisan builds in the deathless stone
To himself a pillar of fame.

Then swell the song both loud and long,
  With willling hearts to-night,
And let each craftsman true and strong,
  Drink of a pure delight;
It shall not be a martial peal,
  Speaking of pomp and power,
But a measure that rings to the clink of steel,
  To grace the festal hour.

"Thus passed off the first semi-centennial anniversary of the Association. The emotions awakened in the minds of the members by the exercises of the day, were of a nature not easily to be effaced from remembrance, nor likely to be wholly unprofitable in maintaining the interest of the public in the well-being and prosperity of the institution. The occasion was one of unmingled satisfaction to all; and no higher wish need be entertained, than that those which are to follow may partake of the same character."

By the report of the finance committee, it appeared that the treasurer had in his hands, at the commencement of the year, in cash and bank stock, $39,348 53; — that he received, during the year, from the secretary for admission fees, assessments, festival tickets, bank dividends and rents, proceeds of sales of bank stocks, and donations from William Sturgis and Lyman White, $23,911 81; total amount in his possession, $63,260 34. The whole amount of incidental expenses for the year was $6,718 87. It also appeared that the expenses of the year exceeded the income, $508 69. This result was owing mainly to the expenses connected with the projected building, and to a deficiency on items belonging to the exhibition of the year preceding, and which properly belonged to the last year's account. The amount due from members at the end of the year, was $1,526. The committee felt "bound to inculcate upon members the extreme importance of adhering to the ancient custom of discharging their dues quarterly. They are then comparatively unfelt, but when suffered to accumulate, even for a single year, they become a source of unpleasant feeling, tending, more than all other causes, to bring on that lack of interest in the concerns of the association, which almost always ends in positive disaffection." Satisfactory title deeds of the Boott estate were exhibited by the

treasurer. The committee closed their report, "expressing their deep sense of the obligations which the association were under to the treasurer, for the ability, promptness, and untiring fidelity, with which he discharged the duties of his office, which peculiar circumstances have, this year, rendered more than usually onerous."

The benevolent purposes of the institution were conducted this year by a large committee, who distributed to thirty-eight recipients, *Eleven hundred and one dollars and twenty-five cents.* Of these thirty-eight beneficiaries, thirty-three were females.

The condition of the "drawing school" for apprentices was not quite satisfactory. The report of the committee states that it was opened in November, 1844, and continued five months, under the instruction of Mr. Francis S. Durivage. The age of admision was eighteen years and upwards, and each class consisted of twenty-five pupils. The average attendance was only eighteen. The whole number of apprentices that entered their names was eighty, — all of whom had the privilege of attending. Some of their drawings, especially those of an architectural character, were considered creditable to their authors. Mr. Durivage died soon after the close of the school. The committee speak in terms of "entire approbation of his uniform kindness to his pupils, his urbanity of manners, and gentlemanly deportment, and his untiring industry and great ability as a teacher.*

Our friend and associate, Benjamin Russell, died this year, on the fourth day of January. He was one of the original members, and, without reproach to any of his colleagues or successors, it may be said, that he was the most active, influential, and successful of all whose names are recorded in these annals, in promoting the interest, the reputation, and permanent usefulness of the association. He was one of the first board of trustees, in which capacity he served four years. He was then chosen vice-president, and filled the office nine years. In 1808 he succeeded Jonathan Hunewell as president, and continued in that office, by election, and generally

* No report concerning the school for writing and arithmetic is found on the record for any year subsequent to 1841.

by a unanimous vote, till 1821, — fourteen years, — when he retired from that important post of honor, and consented to serve another term of three years as a trustee. His was the spirit which gave life and vigor and activity to the association. In its infancy the association was an object of misconceived prejudice and unfounded jealousy. To Russell belongs chiefly the credit of removing these obstacles and overthrowing the opposition. It was ten years from its institution before an act of incorporation could be obtained; and all this time Russell was busy in efforts to procure it. Though backed and supported by committees, who waited in the lobby of the State-house, and, as occasion offered, solicited a vote from some member of the legislature, but for him, another ten years would probably have passed away without the granting of a charter. While others waited at the door, he boldly entered the hall, — pushed the claim of the association to public favor, — and at length obtained a decided victory. During the long term in which he was in the government, — and especially while he was president, — he was seldom absent from the post of duty; and all his responsibilities were discharged with promptness. Most, if not all, the important reports of committees for twenty years were written by him, or underwent his revision. There was no project for improvement among the mechanics, of a social, moral, or pecuniary character, in which he did not engage with as much energy as if he were personally interested. For more than forty years Mr. Russell was the editor and publisher of a leading political newspaper. His fame as an editor of intelligence and fairness was co-extensive with the limits of the United States. In November, 1828, he sold his interest in the Centinel, and withdrew all connection with the Press. While he was an editor, Mr. Russell was always ready to promote all projects for public improvement, and all institutions for philanthropic purposes. He never hesitated to contribute of his means to public or private charity. Avarice was not one of his failings; if it had been, he might have died worth a million of dollars.

"Russell was proud of his character as a mechanic. To

the mechanics, as a class, he was strongly and affectionately attached. When in the brightest days of his political career, when he was associated with men of the highest rank in political circles, and even courted by some of the leaders of his party, he never forgot that he was a mechanic, and would often withdraw from a political committee or conference, to attend a meeting of mechanics. His agency in the meetings at the Green Dragon, in 1788, while the Massachusetts convention was discussing the Federal constitution, was powerful and effective. He had not only an *ambition* for public employment; he had a *talent*, that enabled him to discharge the duties of every employment that his fellow-citizens saw fit to impose upon him. He filled the important station of president of the Board of Health of the town of Boston, for five years. He was a member of the school committee, by election of the people, for five years, and afterwards held the same position by virtue of his office as an alderman. He was a member of the common council from the organization of the city government, in 1822, till 1825. In 1829 he was elected an alderman, and re-elected for three successive years. Probably no other man in Boston held the office of a popular representative so many years in succession. He was first elected a member of the House of Representatives in 1805, and was re-elected every succeeding year thereafter, till 1821. In 1822 and 1825 he was a senator from the county of Suffolk, and was again chosen a representative from Boston in 1828, and every following year till 1835. In 1836 and 1837, he was a member of the executive council, and this was the last of his service in any public capacity. He retained his memory in a remarkable degree till within a few months of his decease, and often amused his friends with narrations and anecdotes of former days, and cotemporaries whom he had outlived. The decay of his physical and intellectual faculties was gradual, though not imperceptible to his familiar friends. He had no sickness. He was sometimes a little nervous and would send for a physician, who frankly told his friends that he could be of no service; *for the machine was worn out, and there was not material enough left to form the basis of repairs.*

His appetite was gentle and satisfied with small quantities of the simplest food. In this manner a month or two passed away. On the morning of the fourth of January, he was sitting by the fire-side, and rose to go to his bed. He asked his daughter, who was constantly with him, what made the room so dark. Perceiving that his eyes no longer performed their office, she led him to the bed. He lay down, and, in the course of an hour, ceased to breathe. He suffered no painful struggle. The transition from life to death was so tranquil, that the affectionate watcher noted not the moment of change. Thus died Benjamin Russell, in the eighty-fourth year of his age. His funeral was honored by the attendance of the members of our association, members of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons, members of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery company, of which he had been the commander, and a long procession of those who had been connected with him in friendly and social relations. The remains were deposited in a tomb in the Old Granary burying-ground. *

The other members who died this year were Benjamin True, Willard N. Fisher, Albert W. Starbuck, and Henry Loring.

Nine members were discharged, and nineteen were admitted, viz: —

Samuel Walker, Roxbury, Printer.
Charles Parker, Morocco-dresser.
Stephen Dow, Woburn, Tanner.
John A. Robertson, Stair-builder.
Charles Copeland, Confectioner.
C. T. James, Newburyport, Manufacturer.
Abner B. Loring, Coppersmith.
Samuel H. Loring, Coppersmith.
Ichabod Washburn, Worcester, Wire-manufacturer.
Oliver Holman, Blank-book-manufacturer.
James Bates, Mason.
John D. Towle, Architect and Builder.
William H. Kelley, Tailor.
George P. Reed, Musical Instrument-maker.
Samuel Gilbert, Piano-forte-manufacturer.
William R. Butterfield, Cambridge, Leather-dresser.
Nathaniel Adams, Mason.
Thomas Smallwood, Newton, Cabinet-maker.
Franklin Patch, Housewright.

* See a full memoir of Mr. Russell, in "Specimens of Newspaper Literature," vol. 2. Little & Brown, Boston. 1850.

# 1846.

At the annual meeting, January 1, the two reports following were presented, furnishing a history of the efforts to erect a hall, to the end of the year 1845: —

The committee appointed in pursuance of a vote passed at a special meeting, held February 19, 1845, and who were empowered to solicit donations from the members of this association, towards the erection of our contemplated Hall, have attended to the duty assigned them, and ask leave to report: —

That a meeting of the whole committee was called immediately after its appointment; — at which meeting vacancies were filled and sub-committees elected, consisting of four members of each ward, who at once proceeded to complete their work; owing, however, as your committee believe, mainly to the uncertainty involving the offered donation of Mr. Brimmer, their success was by no means flattering on the whole; notwithstanding the munificent subscriptions of many of our members, whose names should ever be held in honor by this association.

When it was finally ascertained that the amount expected from Mr. Brimmer would not be received, measures were taken by the government, and by the Hall committee, which resulted in a special meeting of the association, held September 17, 1845, — at which a report was read, giving a full statement of affairs as they then stood, and asking some further expression of the will of the association, for the guidance of the Hall committee. The excellent spirit manifested at that meeting, one of the largest which has been held for a long time, will be recollected by all. The report was accepted, ordered to be printed, and forthwith distributed among the members. A subscription list was also opened immediately after the close of the regular business, and between two and three thousand dollars, in addition to what had been given before, were in a few minutes subscribed by about forty members. Under these encouraging auspices, your committee made a further effort. The ward committees were strengthened, and a general call again made throughout the city; the result of which, together with the previous measures, is, that about Eleven thousand five hundred dollars, towards the Twenty thousand required, is all that, under present circumstances, it seems possible to collect.

This result, so different from our hopes and anticipations, the committee now lay before you, regreting that we have not done more, but trusting that your sense of justice will sustain us in the assertion, that we have done what we could.

All of which is respectfully submitted, for the committee.

GEORGE G. SMITH, *Chairman.*

Which report, on motion of Mr. Fairbanks, was accepted.

The Hall committee's report and certain resolutions were read by the president, as follows, viz: —

The committee appointed at the annual meeting, January 5, 1843, and entrusted with all matters relative to the erection of our contemplated Hall, ask leave to report: —

That since their appointment many circumstances of uncertainty and perplexity have almost constantly embarrassed their operations; circumstances utterly beyond their control have caused delay, and may perhaps have subjected them to censure where none was justly due. They have been charged with a great trust; almost unlimited powers have been confided to them; and for the right and judicious exercise of those powers, they have at all times felt themselves heavily responsible, — that they might on the one hand avoid unnecessary delay in their operations, and on the other hand, risking, by undue precipitancy, the prosperity and perhaps the stability of the association.

At the annual meeting, in January, 1845, it will be recollected that a donation of Twenty thousand dollars was offered by an influential and respected friend of the association, towards the erection of a building, which should, by its various facilities, add vigor and efficiency to our operations, and be at the same time an enduring monument of the talent and enterprize of the mechanics of Boston. To this munificent gift, a further donation of the same amount was proposed to be raised by the then mayor of the city, the Hon. Martin Brimmer. These donations, together with our own funds and the amount which might reasonably be expected from our members, were judged by the association amply sufficient to warrant immediate measures towards this long contemplated object; and, after some delay, the purchase of the Boott estate, which had been before partially effected, was completed, the deeds thereof received and recorded, and partial payment made thereon, as appears by the report of the committee of finance. Measures were also taken, by advertising our proposals in this city, New-York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, to enlist the talents of the best architects of our country; and a large number of designs were received, in various styles of architecture, four of which were modeled, that the committee might be the better enabled to judge of their effect. Your committee were still prevented however from any definite action, by the uncertainty attending the donation of Mr. Brimmer; and when, after much delay, it was finally ascertained by his letter of May 26, 1835, that the amount collected would be only about Three thousand instead of twenty thousand dollars, an emergency was presented, wholly unexpected, and under which the committee, after taking the advice of a council of our most experienced members, in view also of the fact that the donations within our own body were not so liberal as we hoped, decided upon requesting the government to call the special meeting of September 17, 1845.

With the result of that meeting, you are already acquainted; but when the ill success of the donation committee, in their subsequent exertions, was made known to the Hall committee, we decided, that although clothed by your confidence with full powers, and authorized by repeated votes, still we could not, under the circumstances, proceed further in the duty assigned us, without giving you full information as to the position in which we now find ourselves placed.

It will, in the first place, be recollected that the cost of that portion of the Boott estate absolutely necessary for our projected building, will be

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|---|---|---|
| at least . . . . . | | $40,000 |
| Cost of edifice, probably . . . . . | | 85,000 |
| Making, | | $125,000 |
| To meet this we have the funds of the association, . | $40,000 | |
| Donations from members and others, say . . . | 35,000— | 75,000 |
| Leaving, to be provided for by loan or otherwise, . . . | | $50,000 |

An amount of indebtedness too great, as it appears to your committee, for the association safely to incur. It will be proper to state, however, that had the committee succeeded in effecting an arrangement, as we were given to suppose we might, with Mr. John A. Lowell, whereby a loan could have been obtained of him, and the interest or a great part thereof taken in rent, it would have placed us on far different ground; but failing to effect this, after consultation with Mr. Lowell, by a sub-committee, we did not think it prudent, as we should otherwise have unhesitatingly done, to recommend the funding of our exhibition receipts as a sufficient means to meet this debt when it should become due.

This, gentlemen, is a simple statement of affairs as they now stand. Circumstances have forced us to relinquish the hope of completing at present our long cherished project; and, in face of the large amount of donations, which have been contributed towards this object; in face also of the pressing need of a stronger bond of union, than our mere charitable organization can at the present day supply, we feel ourselves compelled to recommend the adoption of the resolutions appended to this report. While, however, a combination of unfavorable circumstances compels us to recommend the suspension of all measures towards the erection of our contemplated building, we are happy in being able to congratulate the association upon what we regard as the very fortunate purchase of the Boott estate, and on this subject, permit us to close this report, in the words of a report lately made upon the same subject to your committee, and upon which the course of action herein recommended is founded. The report concludes by saying: —

"We are happy in being able to report, that in our opinion, the association have been most fortunate in making the purchase of the land; that our funds are far better placed there than they can possibly be else-

where; and that we ought by all means to retain possession of it. Our reasons for this conclusion are as follows: — First, on the general principle, that our funds are more secure when vested in real estate than in stocks of any kind; and, secondly, that this particular purchase is doubly advantageous, as having been bought very low, and as it is also, from its situation, constantly and rapidly rising in value. It stands us in a little short of $2 80 per foot, including the materials of the building, which have been valued at $5,000; and this sum deducted from the price of the land, brings it to about $2 50 per foot. Now the sub-committee have been credibly informed, that before the association had absolutely decided upon the purchase, and while the estate was conditionally promised to an individual, he had effected provisional sales of building lots on Bowdoin-square at the rate of Four dollars per foot. It must be recollected, also, that the property is situated within a very short distance from the depot of the great north-western web of railroads, where, at no distant day, an amount of business must concentrate, which no man can pretend to calculate, but which, in such cases, is sure to outrun all calculation."

Such, gentlemen, were the opinions of our sub-committee; such also are ours; and after a full consideration of all the circumstances of the case, your committee unhesitatingly recommend the adoption of the following resolutions: —

1. *Resolved*, That the subscriptions and funds of this association are insufficient at present to warrant the immediate erection of our contemplated building.

2. *Resolved*, That the purchase of the Boott estate meets the approbation of this association, as a wise and judicious measure, considered either as a site for the erection of a Hall, or as a proper investment of our funds; and that the prospect of its almost certain increase in value renders it inexpedient to sell it.

3. *Resolved*, In view of all the circumstances, that the best disposition which the association can make of said estate will be to lease it for a term of years, on such terms as the government may deem expedient for the interests of the association.

For the Hall committee, GEORGE G. SMITH, *Chairman*.

The resolutions were adopted without much debate. A fourth resolution was afterwards proposed and adopted, authorizing the government to carry the third resolution into effect. It was then voted that the "Hall committee" be discharged. Another vote authorized the government "to refund any donations they may have received for the erection of a hall, with such explanations as the president may deem proper." It was also voted, "that the thanks of the association be tendered to the Hon. Abbott Lawrence for the munificent dona-

tion he proposed to make to aid in the erection of a mechanic hall."

After the reception of the paper presented by the president, and the report of the finance committee, with the action thereon, the government for the year was organized as follows: —

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| George G. Smith, *President.* | Osmyn Brewster, *Treasurer.* |
| William Eaton, *Vice-President.* | John G. Rogers, *Secretary.* |
| John Boles, | Seth Simmons, |
| William Stearns, | Charles Bond, |
| John Green, jun. | David Tillson, |
| James Wentworth, | Loyall Lovejoy, |
| William Washburn, | *Trustees.* |

The disposition to be made of the Boott estate, now that the association had possession of it, was a question of considerable importance, and occupied the attention of the government and of committees, with unremitted anxiety. In the month of January, a proposal was made for its purchase, at the rate of Four dollars a foot; and this proposal, together with all plans for leasing the estate, was referred to a committee, — William Washburn, John Boles, and David Tillson. A negotiation for the sale of it was opened with Mr. William Lawrence, but it met with little favor. On motion of James Wentworth, (February 13,) the "leasing committee" was instructed "to ascertain and report, at the next meeting, the best offer they can have for the estate, as rent, provided the premises be put in order for *a first rate hotel*, and that the committee procure the necessary plans for that purpose." Pursuant to these instructions, the committee reported that the estate could be leased for a term of ten years, for at least seven thousand dollars a year, — provided improvements were made on the premises, the cost of which should, in no case, exceed Twenty-five thousand dollars; and the committee, thinking that the true interests of the association required such improvements, recommended that prompt measures be taken to complete them. This report, after full discussion by the government, was accepted, and a special meeting of the association was called, (February 18,) to decide on the pro-

ceedings of the government. The president read to the meeting the following carefully-prepared statement: —

*Boston, Feb.* 18, 1846.

GENTLEMEN, — Since the last meeting of the association, when authority was granted to the government to lease the Boott estate, on such conditions as they should deem most for the interests of the association, certain propositions have been made, so materially altering the whole aspect of affairs relative to said estate, that the government have thought it best to call the present meeting, that the whole matter may be laid before you, and your action taken thereon.

It will, in the first place, be necessary to state that the estate was advertised for lease immediately on the government receiving power so to do, and various tenders were made, from which one was preferred, offering $3,000 per annum and taxes, which, it will be seen, is at the rate of six per cent. on Fifty thousand dollars; the estimated cost, in gross, of the property to us. Subsequent to this offer, and while the government were discussing the propriety of accepting it, another was made, on a totally different basis, offering $7,000 per annum and the taxes, provided the association would agree to expend a sum not exceeding Twenty-five thousand dollars, in the erection of such additional buildings as will fit the premises for a first-rate hotel. Here, you will see, are two distinct propositions, the comparative advantages of which, in the opinion of the government, they have directed me now to lay before you.

And first, should the estate be leased, as contemplated by the first proposition, the lessees are empowered to erect such buildings additional to those now standing thereon, as they may deem proper, and at the expiration of their lease, should it not be renewed, the association are to have the privilege of purchasing those buildings, at such rates as three disinterested men shall award. It will be readily perceived that this contract, although the best that, under existing circumstances, could be obtained, and offering what must be considered a fair rate of interest upon the cost of the property, is nevertheless liable to certain objections, arising from the nature of all leasehold contracts. For example, should the lessees choose to erect buildings of such a character as may afford them the chance of remunerating themselves for the entire cost thereof by the profits of their first term of lease, the condition of buildings of this description, will not probably be such at the end of the term, as to offer any inducement for the association to purchase them; and in that case, should the lease not be renewed, the ground must be cleared again, and entirely new arrangements made for rendering the estate productive. It is evident, also, that the species of copartnership generated by *our* owning the land and *they* the buildings, may *possibly*, at least, lead to difficulties in our joint arrangements, which, although they might not be of any great importance, yet, these advantages, with other and graver reasons, have induced the government to prefer the other course. This course, whereby

the association retains the entire control of both land and buildings is recommended, in the first place, by its freedom from all entangling connections; and, in the second place, that it will be much more advantageous to the pecuniary interests of the association, — which we think can be made to appear by a very simple calculation.

The last proposition, that the lessee simply hires the estate as it now stands, making his own improvements thereon, will, at $3,000 per annum, or the interest of six per cent. on $50,000, give us, in ten years, $30,000. The second proposition, whereby the lessee proposes to hire the estate, after the association shall have made, at its own expense, certain improvements thereon, costing not more than $25,000, at a rent of $7,000 and taxes, or seven per cent. on $100,000, will give us, in ten years, $70,000. But, in order to realize this sum, we have to provide ways and means for the necessary outlay; and to do this, we have a fund of $18,000, in bank stocks, which has never produced us six per cent. and probably never will; and which will be much safer as well as more productive, vested in real estate. This fund, if so appropriated, will leave $7,000, and no more, necessary to be raised by mortgage, and upon which, of course, the interest is to be paid. We have already a mortgage upon the estate of $25,000, which, with the above-named sum of $7,000, will amount to $32,000, bearing interest, which, at six per cent. will amount to $1,920 per annum, to be deducted from our receipts of $7,000, for rent; leaving $5,080 for sinking fund and that portion of the incidental expenses of the association which would require to be supplied from that source; which portion would be very small, as may be made to appear by the following statement: —

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|---|---|
| Our ordinary expenses, for all purposes, are . . . . . | $2,500 |
| Our receipts, from all sources other than our stock, are, in gross, | 2,000 |
| Remaining to be supplied from our rent . . . . | $500 |

Leaving a clear income of $4,580, to be applied as the association may direct. This sum, if converted into a sinking fund, will, at the end of ten years, amount, at six per cent. to more than Sixty thousand dollars, from which amount, however, must be deducted three quarters of a year's rent, lost, while the building is erecting. It will be seen from this statement, that the whole of our surplus income need not be funded; enough will remain, after providing amply for the extinguishment of the debt upon the estate, to commence the establishment of a library, and also to maintain a reading and conversation room, for the use of our members; measures, which all will acknowledge, of vital importance to the prosperity and usefulness of this association.

The other proposition, whereby we receive $3,000 per year, would, after paying the interest, amounting to $1,500 upon our loan of $25,000 from Mr. Lowell, and $500 towards the incidental expenses of the association, leave but $1,000 for all other purposes; — so that the results of the two plans are now fairly before you.

In view of all these circumstances, the government do most unhesitatingly recommend that this association take immediate measures to carry into operation the plan of erecting a building upon our own account, on the Boott estate, — fully satisfied as we are that an opportunity now offers, whereby the funds of this association, and consequently its means for benevolent action and useful enterprize, may, without the least danger, be increased to an amount which would, even a few years since, been considered beyond the verge of possibility.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEORGE G. SMITH, *President.*

This statement gave rise to a discussion, which ended in a vote that the recommendation in the last paragraph be adopted. It was then voted that "the government be invested with full powers to carry the previous vote into effect;" and authorizing them "to make the necessary sales of stock belonging to the association; and also to borrow such sums of money as may be required to complete the undertaking."

Messrs. William Lawrence and William W. Stone, soon after, made a suggestion that the association should give up its present plan for improving the Boott estate, but their proposition met with no favor. The government chose a building committee, consisting of Messrs. Washburn, Boles and Tillson, who accepted the trust.

Mr. Washburn was authorized to draw on the treasurer for any sum that he might find necessary in settling with a Mr. Flockton, of New-York, who had furnished a plan for a hall, and whose demand was deemed exorbitant. It was settled by the payment of Seven hundred dollars!

Mr. Boles, one of the building committee, requested that his colleague, Mr. Washburn, might be appointed superintendent of the proposed alterations in the Boott house. Mr. Washburn was accordingly appointed, — accepted the office, — and resigned his place as one of the building committee. The vice-president was appointed chairman of that committee in his place.

As soon as it became known that the Boott house was to be converted to a public hotel, a number of applicants made proposals for the lease of it. Samuel Ford and William R. Williams offered Eleven thousand dollars a year for it, and

the government accepted their offer, "provided the applicants should give satisfactory security for the fulfillment of their engagements, and otherwise conform to the requirements of the committee."

At the government meeting, April 10, it was "voted, that the house in Bowdoin-square, heretofore known as the *Bott house*, be called and known hereafter as the *Revere house*, in honor of the late Paul Revere, the first president of the association."

At a government meeting, December 11, the committee appointed to settle the terms of a lease of the Revere house, with Messrs. Ford and Williams, reported that those gentlemen "request permission to transfer their rights in said lease to Mr. Paran Stevens; and the committee have received from him an offer of Twelve thousand dollars a year rent for the premises, all other conditions to remain as in the contract with Ford and Williams." The committee deemed the proposition satisfactory, and recommended that Mr. Stevens be allowed to assume all the responsibilities therein created. This report was accepted.

The building commitee presented a report of their proceedings, showing that the whole amount of cash expended (up to the end of the year) in repairs and improvements, was $34,434; bills brought in and unpaid, $13,008; and estimated amount of bills, not in, for finishing the work, $11,145,—making, in the whole, $58,587. Some small expenses, the committee thought might have been overlooked, but they were of opinion, that the whole expense would not exceed $60,000.

Henry Farnham, Esq. presented to the association a portrait of Benjamin Russell, which was gratefully accepted, and placed in the room appropriated for the meetings of the association.

Nathaniel Gould, Esq. presented to the government "a copy of the constitution, the names of the past and present members, &c. executed in an elegant style of penmanship, and presenting, at one view, the whole catalogue, with the by-laws," &c. which was accepted, placed in a suitable frame, and suitably acknowledged.

A letter from certain gentlemen at Washington, inviting the association to unite with them in getting up a National Fair, was received, and thereupon it was voted, "that the influence of the association be exerted in favor of the proposed exhibition, provided we can have a guarantee that we shall incur no expense or pecuniary responsibility."

June 22. At a special meeting of the government, the president announced the death of a venerated member and ex-president, Daniel Messinger; whereupon it was voted, that the board attend the funeral of the deceased.

July 2. The school committee made a report in detail of their proceedings during the preceding winter, from which it appeared that Mr. D. C. Johnson had been employed as a teacher of drawing, at a salary of Three hundred and seventy-five dollars. The whole number of pupils admitted during the season was eighty-one. Six hundred dollars was appropriated for a school the next season, for the benefit of apprentices under twenty-one years of age.

August 14. The president announced to the government that Samuel Perkins, one of the original members and a past president, had died since the last meeting of the government; upon which it was voted, that the president be requested to address letters to the family of the deceased, and also to the family of the late Daniel Messinger, another original member and past president, expressing their respect for the memories of the deceased. In compliance with this vote, the president prepared the following letters, which were approved and ordered to be placed on record: —

*Boston, Sept.* 8, 1846.

To the Family of the late Hon. Daniel Messinger.

Dear Friends, — At a late meeting of the government of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, it was deemed proper, in view of the loss which you, in common with ourselves and society at large, have sustained by the death of your lamented relative, the Hon. Daniel Messinger, an original member and past president of our association, to address a letter to the family, expressive of our sincere sympathy and condolence. Our association has indeed cause to respect his memory, for he was verily a true and faithful brother amongst us; ever ready to give his advice in every emergency, and to throw, whenever necessary, the whole weight of his personal exertions to forward our influence and

prosperity. And he was repaid by the full confidence of his brethren, evinced by the fact of his frequent election to stations of trust and responsibility, — trustee in 1801, 2, 3 and 4; vice-president in 1808, 9, 10, 11 and 12; and president in 1830 and 31. He exercised the duties of these various offices to the entire satisfaction of his brethren, carrying with him, on his retirement, their best wishes and deep gratitude.

In conveying, by direction of the government, this testimony to the high consideration in which his memory will ever be held amongst us, allow me to add the sincere expression of my personal sympathy and respect.

Very truly your friend,

GEORGE G. SMITH, *President of the Association.*

*Boston, Sept.* 8, 1846.

To the Family of the late SAMUEL PERKINS, Esq.

RESPECTED FRIENDS, — At a late meeting of the government of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, the president was directed to address a letter, in behalf of the association, to the family of the late Samuel Perkins, Esq. a past president and original member, expressive of our sympathy and condolence under the great loss which you have sustained, — a loss to society at large, and to us as well as to you. This year we have been called, by Providence, to mourn the departure of three of our original members, old and full of days and of honors, all of them; but none more honored and beloved than he who is the subject of this letter. His youthful vigor, his manly energies, and the matured wisdom of his declining years, were all exerted in the service of his brethren; who, in turn, repaid him with their full confidence. Elected trustee in 1803, 4 and 5; vice-president in 1824, and president in 1825 and 26, — his mild and conciliating rule was ever gladly obeyed, and his whole deportment strikingly exemplified the legitimate union of the faithful mechanic with the perfect gentleman and conscientious Christian. His memory will ever be revered and honored amongst us; and permit me, in transmitting this testimonial of sincere regard, to express my individual sympathy and entire respect.

Very truly your friend,

GEORGE G. SMITH, *President of the Association.*

An invitation to attend, by delegation, the Fair of the American Institute at New-York, was accepted, and the president, S. Fairbanks, and I. Harris, were appointed to perform that service.

The following candidates were admitted during the year: —

Simon G. Cheever, Saddler.
Abraham W. Crowninshield, Cabinet-maker.
Phillip Kelly, Plasterer and Stucco-worker.
William Chesley, Mason.
Charles Coolidge, Westminster, Chair-maker.
Charles Davenport, Cambridge, Railroad Car-builder.
Edwin Bailey, Carpenter.
George C. Thacher, Iron-founder.

Thirteen members deceased, viz. Henry Purkitt, Jesse Tuttle, Simon Pearson, Harrison Gray, Frederick Lincoln, John Snelling, Timothy S. Nichols, David H. Ela, John Pierce, Peter Mackintosh, Caleb Hartshorn, Daniel Messinger, and Samuel Perkins. Four of these were original members, and were eminently active in organizing the institution.

Seventeen members were discharged, whose arrearages amounted to $245.

The report of the finance committee, made up at the close of the year, embraces, beside the customary details concerning the funds, a review of the proceedings connected with the operations at the Revere House. The treasurer had negotiated a loan of Sixty-five thousand dollars at the Provident Institution for Savings, bearing interest at six per cent. for ten years, with the privilege of paying Five thousand dollars annually towards the extinguishment of the principal. The incidental expenses of the year exceeded the income, by the sum of $1,684 28; owing mainly to expenditures connected with the building committee, and the unusual amount paid to the families of deceased members.

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# 1847.

Annual meeting, January 7. The following report from the government was read by the president:—

*Boston, Jan.* 1, 1847.

BRETHREN OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION,—

The past year having been marked by an enterprize which will doubtless be remembered as an important epoch in our history; and as the annual meeting affords the most suitable opportunity for bringing forward

whatever topics of moment may require the consideration of the association, the government have thought best to submit a special report of their doings during the year, that you may be made acquainted with the manner in which they have fulfilled the trust confided to them; also, to submit such measures as they judge requisite to sustain the reputation, and ensure the prosperity and usefulness of the associaion.

You are aware, Brethren, from the report which has already been read, that our funds are now entirely invested in the Revere House; and it becomes proper, therefore, that the government should, in the first place, inform you fully as to the present state of that property, its cost, and its future prospects.

It will be recollected that at the special meeting in February last, the government were empowered to improve the estate in the manner which should appear to them most for the interest of the association, and to borrow on mortgage of said estate such sums of money as might be necessary. They were also empowered to sell the bank stocks in which our funds were then invested, or such portion thereof as they might deem expedient. These extensive powers were granted in consequence of offers which had been made by individuals anxious to obtain the premises on lease after they should have been converted into a hotel; and these offers were such that the government felt themselves fully warranted in instructing the president to make the detailed report upon which the above named powers were granted.

Acting under this full authority, the government immediately proceeded in the duties committed to them; but scarcely had these duties commenced, when other offers were made from several quarters, so much beyond their anticipations, that they felt bound carefully to review the whole subject; and, considering that the funds of the association were in all probability to be permanently invested in the estate, it became a grave question, therefore, what should be the character of the improvements to be effected thereon, whereby those funds might be made most permanently productive, and, of course, the property most permanently valuable.

Two modes suggested themselves: — one was to obtain the greatest possible amount of rent from a small expenditure; the other was by erecting a building of the first class, and being content with a smaller present income, to obtain a property, likely, for an indefinite series of years, to be constantly rising in value. The latter principle was, after due deliberation, adopted by the government, and has formed the basis of their operations.

It is probable that had the first mode been preferred, we might, for a time, have realized a greater profit; but practical men need scarcely be told, what was quite evident to the government, that a building of this class soon needs so many and such expensive repairs, and in the course of even a few years falls so far behind the constantly improving taste and increasing wants of a large city, as to be, in the long run, rather a bill of

expense than a source of profit. Whereas our present building, although it was not possible, under the circumstances, to give it externally an imposing architectural character, yet, all is solid and permanent, and is furnished with every modern improvement; and in internal convenience and neatness, will not yield to any edifice for similar purposes in the Union.

As to its offering a profitable investment for our funds, the government feel themselves warranted in saying that this is beyond question, — as can easily be demonstrated by the facts in the case. The estate is leased for ten years, to Mr Paren Stevens, late of the New-England House, in this city, at a rent of Twelve thousand dollars per annum, — or the interest, at six per cent, on Two hundred thousand dollars.

Now, by the report of the committee of finance, the building will cost when finished, One hundred and ten thousand dollars, — yielding, therefore, an interest of nearly eleven per cent. It will, as has been stated in the same report, be subject to a mortgage of Sixty-five thousand dollars, at six per cent. per annum, with the privilege of paying yearly Five thousand dollars towards discharging the principal, which discharge, as can easily be calculated, the payment of this yearly sum, will effect within the period of the mortgage; leaving the property at the end of that time free and unencumbered. This sum can be spared without the least interfering with the legitimate purposes and wants of the association; leaving, in fact, after paying all interest and expenses, about Eighteen hundred dollars to be used as you shall hereafter direct.

And now, what is the present aspect of this whole affair? You have taken your funds from investments where, on the average, they could not be expected to yield more than five per cent.; you have invested them in a property which is, in the first place, much more safe, as all must allow, — for whatever may be the fluctuations of national prosperity, or national policy, real estate must still, under any imaginable state of things, short of entire destruction by some great natural calamity, be worth a very large per centage of its cost; and who can say this with safety of bank stocks, or any other stocks? Again, in addition to greater safety, you have also greater profit, — for instead of five, you have nearly eleven per cent. and that secured for a term of years as strongly as human security can do it. And last, though not least, you have secured a property which will warrant you in erecting, if not now, at least in a very few years, and from your own resources, without the necessity of asking abroad for one single dollar, a building which shall not only answer the practical purposes of our association, — but you can afford also to make it an enduring monument of the taste, skill and enterprize of Boston mechanics. And, Brethren, you can do this from your superfluous funds, without encroaching in the least on those means which should ever be sacred to the use of the destitute and the afflicted.

As the organ of the government, I feel it my duty again, now that our funds admit of it, to call your attention to the subject of a *Reading and*

*Conversation Room*, — where our members may become better acquainted with each other, and by social intercourse endeavor to do away with those unworthy jealousies, which in all communities are so apt to estrange mechanics and artisans from each other; where topics of interest to the industrial world may be discussed; where, in fact, we may find gratification and improvement for ourselves, and a common centre of reunion to our friends from abroad.

But, in order to make this succeed as it ought, and as it might, we must commence a *Library*. I have spoken of this before, and I cannot allow the present opportunity to pass, without bringing this all-important subject again before you. I believe we are the only institution of mechanics in the country which remains destitute in this respect; and this want is unworthy of the well deserved reputation of our members for skill, industry and intelligence; it is unworthy of our great resources as an association, that we should remain one moment longer without some decided and efficient action. I do not undertake to point out the means, but I have no doubt that a committee of this association can be selected, who will devise a plan of operations, which shall be satisfactory to the association, and perfectly successful in its results.

It also becomes my duty, in obedience to the instructions of the government, respectfully to remind the association, that the present is the year of our Triennial Exhibition of Manufactures, and the products of industry generally; and the government recommends that measures be taken at this meeting, whereby we may hope that our fifth triennial exhibition may be carried through with the same triumphant success which has marked its predecessors.

All of which is respectfully submitted, in behalf of the government.

GEORGE G. SMITH, *President.*

Which report was accepted, and ordered to be recorded and placed upon file. It was then

*Voted*, unanimously, That Osmyn Brewster, the treasurer of this corporation, be and he is hereby authorized and directed to make, execute and deliver to the Provident Institution for Savings, in the town of Boston, in behalf of this association, a promissory note for Sixty-five thousand dollars, payable in ten years from date, with interest at the rate of six per centum per annum, payable half yearly, with liberty to pay Five thousand dollars at the end of each year from date.

*Voted*, That George G. Smith, the president of this corporation, be and he is hereby authorized and directed, to make, execute, acknowledge and deliver, in the name and behalf of this corporation, to the Provident Institution for Savings in the town of Boston, a mortgage deed, with warranty, of the real estate, in said Boston, at the corner of Bowdoin-square and Bulfinch-street, which is particularly described in the deed recorded with Suffolk Deeds, Lib. 544, Fol. 137, — the condition of said deed of

mortgage to be the payment of said principal sum of Sixty-five thousand dollars, with interest, according to the terms of said promissory note, — the effecting insurance against fire in a sum not less than Thirty thousand dollars for the benefit of said mortgage, and the payment of all taxes levied or assessed on said premises.

*Voted*, That said note and mortgage, when executed and delivered as aforesaid, shall be valid and effectual to all intents and purposes, as the note and mortgage of this corporation.

The sum of One thousand dollars was appropriated for the use of the committee of relief.

Frederic W. Lincoln, jun. proposed the following resolutions: — That the Fifth Exhibition of American manufactures and mechanic arts, under the auspices of the association, be held during the month of September next; — that the government be a committee, with full powers, to make the necessary arrangements, &c. — and that the sum of Five thousand dollars be appropriated for this object: — All which were adopted.

The following officers for the year were elected: —

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|---|---|
| George G. Smith, *President.* | Osmyn Brewster, *Treasurer.* |
| Henry N. Hooper, *Vice-President.* | John Kuhn, *Secretary.* |
| John Green, jun. | Loyall Lovejoy, |
| James Wentworth, | Isaac Cary, |
| Seth Simmons, | Leopold Herman, |
| Charles Bond, | Joseph L. Bates, |
| David Tillson, | *Trustees.* |

The building committee and superintendent of the Revere House were re-appointed to their respective offices.

That portion of the government report, in which immediate action towards the establishment of a Reading and Conversation Room and the commencement of a Library, was referred to a committee, composed of George Darracott, Frederic W. Lincoln, jun, Joseph M. Wightman, Pelham Bonney, and James B. Dow. At the request of Mr. Bonney, April 1, the committee was discharged from further service on the subject, and, on motion of Frederic H. Stimpson, Messrs. Bonney, Lincoln, Wightman, Dow, and Stimpson were appointed a committee on a Library and Conversation Room.

Mr. Stevens took possession of the Revere House, early in the spring. It had been proposed to have an entertainment for the members of the association and their families, to celebrate the opening of the house. Having expressed a wish that the government should assume the management, the government accordingly undertook the direction. The entertainment took place on the evening of Wednesday, April 28, and was numerously attended by the members. The honorary members were present by invitation. The wives and other female relatives of the members formed an interesting portion of the company. The tables were spread with all the luxuries of the season, and all the delicacies of scientific cookery. Wine was, however, excluded. The president of the association presided, and introduced the festivities with congratulations to the members, on the successful result of their enterprize, and a hearty welcome to the guests.

The school committee made a favorable report of the success which had attended their operations, and recommended a continuance of the school. Their recommendation was approved; a new committee was appointed for the next season, and Five hundred dollars placed at their disposal.

The committee on a library and reading-room presented a report, in which the immediate action of the association in favor of the project was urged with great earnestness. The consideration of the report was postponed from time to time, till November 4, when, at a special meeting of the association, a committee of fifteen members was appointed, with instructions to call upon all the members of the association, and solicit subscriptions for the contemplated establishment.

At the quarterly meeting in July, a letter was received from Hubbard Oliver, formerly a member of the association, stating that, some time since, he had been discharged for delinquency; and respectfully requesting to be reinstated, if, on consideration of his case, he should be deemed a fit subject for such action. The letter was referred to the government, with full power to reinstate Mr. Oliver, if, in their judgement, it should be deemed right and proper. The government referred the matter to Messrs. Brewster, J. Green, jun. and

Bond, to investigate and report. Subsequently the committee made the following report, which was accepted by the government, ordered to be recorded, and submitted to the association for their approval: —

The committee of the government of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, to whom was referred the petition of Mr. Hubbard Oliver, asking to be reinstated as a member of this association, have attended to the duty assigned them, and would respectfully report: —

That so long a period of time has elapsed since he was discharged, that nothing but general facts can now be gathered in relation to his case. It appears by our record, that Mr. Oliver was admitted a member of the association in June, 1802; and that he was discharged for delinquency in 1834. It thus appears that he was a member for about thirty-two years, — a longer time than was necessary to have constituted him a life member, had his assessments been promptly paid. It appears by our books, that they were promptly paid for twenty-six years; after which, we are informed, he became embarrassed in business, and that his circumstances were such that he was probably unable to pay them. Whether his discharge resulted from a feeling of delicacy on his part, in not wishing to make known his situation, or from a want of sufficient inquiry into his case by the government then in office, we are unable at this late day to learn. That the letter of our constitution would sanction the course pursued we have no doubt, but whether it would be in accordance with its spirit, which declares that "beneficence shall ever be a primary and conspicuous object of the association," we may well doubt; and the propriety of discharging any one from the association who has been a good and faithful member so great a number of years, we should also doubt. As this is a case for which we find no parallel on our records, and one which the government find difficult to settle without exercising a doubtful power, or perhaps establishing an unsafe precedent, they would, therefore, prefer bringing it before the association, for their decision, rather than take a doubtful responsibility upon themselves; in doing which, they would respectfully report, that this government, in their opinion, ought to recommend a re-installment of Mr. Oliver, as a life member of the association, by paying the amount of assessments that would have made him so, or by a remission of the same, as they may think most proper to do.

Respectfully submitted, in behalf of the government.

OSMYN BREWSTER,
JOHN GREEN, Jun.
CHARLES BOND,
*Committee.*

This report was presented to the association at their meeting in October. It was received with such marks of appro-

bation, as manifested the existence of a desire, not merely to do actual justice to an injured, an aged and respectable member, but to clear the association from any stain of reproach in the matter. Several members spoke in terms of regret for what had taken place, and of great regard for Mr. Oliver. Mr. Fairbanks remarked that "he had known Mr. Oliver for many years, — that he always esteemed him for his untiring industry, sterling integrity, and uprightness of conduct, in every relation of life; and, without intending to cast the shadow even of a reflection on the motives which prompted his ejectment, he must confess his astonishment that such an act should ever have been a subject of record on the generally fair pages of the books of the association." After these and other feeling remarks, it was "voted unanimously, — every member rising in his place, that Mr. Hubbard Oliver be, and hereby is, re-admitted a member of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association." It was also "voted unanimously, that any arrears or assessments, which may be due from Mr. Oliver, be hereby remitted." And the secretary was directed to communicate to Mr. Oliver the action of the association in respect to his case. Mr. Oliver had the satisfaction of knowing that he was reinstated as a member of the association; but that satisfaction was of short continuance. He died a few weeks after the proceedings above related.

The Fifth Exhibition was opened on Wednesday, the fifteenth of September, and closed on Saturday, October 2. Faneuil and Quincy Halls were connected, as before, by a bridge. Joseph M. Wightman was the superintendent, and under his judicious and efficient management, all things went on with regularity and harmony. The quality of the various articles exhibited was thought to be superior to that of any former exhibition. In number, also, they far exceeded those of any other exhibition. The number of contributors, — one thousand six hundred and fifty-three, — exceeding those of the preceding one by two hundred and eighty. "In machinery, (says the report of the managers,) the display was greater than ever before; and the characteristic ingenuity of our countrymen never displayed itself in a greater variety of forms.

Contrivances of all kinds were there, from the everlasting washing-machine, in twenty different shapes, — each explained and recommended with the volubility with which Yankees alone can talk, when their interest is concerned, — and the apple-paring machines, and the chopping machines, to lighten the industrious house-wife's labor, and give her culinary products greater perfection, — from these to spinners and the looms, and a multitude of others, regulated and governed by the mighty steam-engine, moving as if instinct with life, and, like a powerful monarch, putting in motion, and controlling all." It was originally intended that an address should be delivered by some one of the members before the association and their guests, at some suitable time and place, during the exhibition; but there were difficulties in the way, and the attempt was abandoned.

The government, at one of its early sessions, reinstated a member who had been discharged on account of delinquency. At the quarterly meeting in July, it was voted, "That the government be respectfully requested to report at our next quarterly meeting, the authority by which they reinstated Mr. —— ——." The government, at a special meeting, November 4, presented a report, stating, that in the absence of all constitutional provision on the subject, they were compelled to fall back upon precedent, and cited several cases, in which their predecessors had performed similar acts, — reinstating discharged members on payment of all arrearages. As these acts of their predecessors had received the sanction of the association, they considered their proceedings, in the present case authorized and justifiable. The report was accepted.

The negligence of persons, who had been admitted members by ballot, in subscribing the constitution, gave rise to some warm debates during the year, and a remedy was provided by a change in the constitution in that particular.

A slight misunderstanding occurred between the committee on the apprentices' library and the officers of that institution, which produced a vote, "that the committee be instructed to communicate to said association, as the sense of this government, that we have at all times an undoubted right to make

[illegible] manage-
[illegible] over the
[illegible] time to
[illegible] whereby
[illegible] to assume

[illegible] submitted
[illegible] Revere
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[illegible] dollars
[illegible] paid
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[illegible] of the
[illegible] account of
[illegible] admis-
[illegible] Savings
[illegible] Revere House
[illegible] rooms
[illegible] of
[illegible]
[illegible] $[illegible]
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The Revere House property, as stated by the building committee, appeared to have cost, including interest before it became available, the sum of $141,781 28. And it was supposed that an additional sum of $800 would be necessary to complete certain improvements contemplated by the committee. "This was certainly (say the committee of finance) a much greater sum than was at first contemplated; but your committee have, nevertheless, no hesitation in saying that it is, after all, the very best investment for our funds that could possibly have been found. For, setting aside those feelings of pride with which it ought to be regarded, as contributing by the enterprize of this association a great accommodation and ornament to our city, and the higher standing which we take before the public, as the proprietors of an edifice so useful as well as so handsome; — it can easily be demonstrated, we think, as was said before, that as a mere investment, it pays us, and, under any reasonable contingency, will continue to pay us a higher rate of interest than we could look for elsewhere." After some remarks, tending to show that the rent of the Revere House, though low, was still profitable, the report proceeds to say, — "Its prosperity has been probably altogether unexampled in the history of hotel property. When the Tremont was first opened, it was altogether unproductive, both to the proprietors and the keepers, — and so continued for a term of years; and yet, that building, although much smaller than ours, commands a rent of more than Twenty thousand dollars a year. And so of the United States and the Astor, and in fact, of every large establishment, except the Revere House, it has required a long time to make them known, and a still longer time to make them profitable; but ours, under the judicious conduct of our lessee, who is as careful to make the morals of his house as unexceptionable as its management in every other respect, seems to have sprung iuto full success from the day of its opening, and obtained at once that prosperity which is, in ordinary cases, the work of years."

The report proceeded with congratulations concerning the recent Fair and Exhibition, and some very sensible and ap-

propriate remarks on the proper use of such exhibitions; — noticed, in respectful and affectionate terms, the death of James Wentworth, one of the trustees, — and concluded with the following just tribute to the labors of an officer of the government: — "The committee cannot close their report, without performing an act of simple justice to the treasurer, in drawing the attention of the association to the onerous duties, under which that officer has labored during the last two years. Financial operations requiring great ability have fallen upon him, far beyond any thing in our former history, and in which he has been compelled to labor alone, without the possibility of receiving that aid from the head of the association, which, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, he, ordinarily, would have a right to look for. He, and the generous firm of which he is a member, came up to the rescue, when there was none to help; and so long as truth and disinterested devotion to its interests shall be held in honor by the association, these gentlemen, who have sacrificed and are still sacrificing their own personal and pecuniary interest to ours, at a period of peculiar commercial distress, will merit, and, we trust, will receive, our deep and heart-felt gratitude."

Several members withdrew from the association, and a few were discharged for the usual cause, — delinquency.

Fourteen members deceased: — Ephraim Marsh,* Daniel

* Ephraim Marsh was long known as a respectable carpenter at the south part of Boston. He was born in Hingham, November 12, 1767. His father was Ephraim Marsh of that town; — was a farmer and a mariner. Young Marsh had very limited advantages for education in early life; and spent much time in the boat with his father. He served a long apprenticeship with Edward Blake of Boston, — a venerable carpenter in Pleasant-street. As soon as he was of age, Mr. Marsh went to Quincy, where he lived a few years, and built several houses. He returned to Boston, and became a member of our association in 1800. He built many of the "first class" houses in Beacon and Chesnut-streets, and several stores in and about Broad-street. He was a member of the first common council of the city, and was street commissioner, during the mayoralty of Josiah Quincy, senior. Later in life, he entered upon the construction of Artesian wells. He was not the inventor of the boring apparatus, but bought the right of using it for the state of Massachusetts, of a Mr. Disbrow of New-York. It is difficult to say what the precise invention of Disbrow was. It could not have been the augre; for that was used long before he obtained a patent. As early as 1807, a well was bored, at the south part of the town, to the depth of more than a hundred feet, with an augre made by Deacon Richard Faxon, and loaned to the operator at the rate of Five dollars a day. [The well on Long wharf was bored at

B. Whittridge, Henry Bailey, Oliver Johonnot, Jacob G. L. Libbey, John Mack, Samuel Clark, Jeremiah Washburn, Seth Fuller, George W. Adams, James Wentworth,*

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a period still earlier.] Wooden tubes were then used. Mr. Marsh always used iron tubes, and it may be that the patent was obtained for their use. Mr. Marsh made several hundred washing machines for the inventor, the Rev. Mr. Weld of Braintree. He also made many hundred looms for weaving, and some spinning jennies, before factories were built. In connection with James Bolter, he built the steeple of Hollis-street meeting-house, and was chairman of the building committee of the meeting-house at the corner of Washington and Castle-streets. He kept a record of all the buildings he erected, the number of which, in 1835, was two hundred and fifty-four; and it is stated by one who had been his apprentice, that he built enough, after that date, to make up the number to three hundred. From the representations of those who were most familiar with Mr. Marsh, it may be inferred that the strong points in his character were judgement and calculation; and that, if he was not a first rate workman, with his own hands, he was an excellent planner and contriver; a good judge of work, and how to set about a job, and accomplish it to the best advantage. He was not a great reader, but made himself familiar with the common books of his time which treated of architecture. He was quick to see and to treasure up improvements that met his eye, — was ready with a plan for a difficult job, — and was fluent and plausible, if not scientific, in giving reasons and explaining his ideas. The first mayor Quincy, had great confidence in Mr. Marsh's judgement, and consulted him about laying out and constructing the new Market-house, and its contiguous improvements. If he was not scientific and profound, he had a liberal share of that Yankee attribute which is called CONTRIVANCE, — ready, willing, kind, and neighborly, with a good memory and large experience. He was a benevolent man, and gave liberally to the poor without sounding a trumpet. On the decease of a son, who was a member of our association, he declined taking the Forty-dollar donation, and gave it as a contribution to the committee of relief. He died February 19, 1847; and as the treasurer has no record of the payment of the customary donation to Mr. Marsh's family or executors, it may be safely concluded that he left directions with his heirs to make no claim for it. He left an estate worth $40,000, and would probably have left $80,000, but for the failure of his sons, for whom he was an endorser.

* James Wentworth was born in Boston, February 14, 1794. At the age of fourteen, he was apprenticed to the well-known firm of Russell & Cutler, editors and proprietors of the Boston Gazette. His taste for the art of printing and his untiring industry, made him one of the best job printers in the city, and he acquired an enviable reputation among the members of the profession. In February, 1826, in connection with Henry W. Dutton, Mr. Wentworth commenced the business of book and job printing. In 1830 they began the publication of the Daily Evening Transcript, edited by Lynde M. Walter. The business of this firm was carried on with activity and punctuality, and produced a liberal income Mr. Wentworth was an active member of our association, and served a number of years as an efficient member of the committee of relief. He was a member of the government at the time of his decease, which was on the twenty-fourth of October, 1847. An obituary notice in the Transcript of October 28, speaking of Mr. Wentworth's skill as a printer, says, very truly, "His taste was discriminating. There was a style in the appearance of his cards, title-pages, and other fancy work, which was peculiar. To use the words of a friend, he looked upon a title-page as an artist would look upon a picture It must have its light and shade and relief, else it was not perfect, or agreeable to his keen eye. Every-

Hubbard Oliver,* Nathaniel Perkins, and Thomas Crehore.†

The following candidates were admitted: —

Abraham O. Bigelow, Watch-maker.
Samuel L. Winsor, Carver.
John Mears, jr. Stove-manufacturer.
William B. Oliver, Tin-plate-worker.
D. C. Johnston, Engraver.
George E. Willis, Tin-plate-worker.
Elbridge Teel, Wheelwright.
Edward Hemenway, Painter.
John Wilson, Pattern-maker.
Nathaniel Stevens, Manufacturer.
Joshua Lord, Carpenter.
William Tileston, Varnisher and Polisher.
William Schouler, Printer.
William A. Swift, Carpenter.
Charles W. Brown, Carpenter.
Oliver Edwards, Machinist.
David Stone, Machinist.
Ira Russell, Cabinet-maker.
John W. Mason, Currier.
Henry S. Hills, Chair-painter.
Joseph M. Doe, Upholsterer.
James Gould, Tallow-chandler.
Charles H. Laughton, Mason.
Willard Hawes, Mason.
David Simpson, Housewright.
George T. Blake, Manufacturer.
Hugh M. Currier, Upholsterer.
John Wiley, Printer.
Robert L. Robbins, Dentist.
Osgood Bradley, Car-builder.
Thacher Beal, Mason.
W. K. Bacall, Upholsterer.
Joseph N. Howe, Glass-manufact'er.
Arioch Wentworth, Soap-stone-worker.
Lewis Locke, Carpenter.
Delmont Locke, Coppersmith.
Charles H. DeRachmont, Housewright.
Albert Bridges, Car-builder.
William Heywood, Cabinet and Chair-maker.
Edward Crehore, Card-manufact'er.
Charles Stearns, Mason.
Moses F. Winn, Shoe-manufacturer.

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thing that passed his hand was perfect and finished. Some of the best specimens of gold and illuminated work ever issued in the city were executed by him.[73]

* Hubbard Oliver was a tailor, and, in early life, transacted a large business. He was a remarkably modest man, and, though he had the faculty of pleasing an extensive list of customers, he wanted confidence to urge payment from many of them, who needed to be often reminded of their obligations. From this cause he lost property enough to have made him rich, and became reduced to poverty. (See the proceedings in his case, page 370.)

† Thomas Crehore was perhaps more extensively known than almost any member of our association. His name was long familiar to those that sold and those that used playing cards, — of which he was the manufacturer on a large scale. His factory was at Dorchester, and was well supplied with machinery of his own invention, to facilitate the manufacture. Some years before his death, he relinquished the manufacture in favor of his two sons, who pursued the business till their factory was destroyed by fire. Mr. Crehore was born in Milton, and learned of his father the trade of a chair-maker. Soon after he was free, Jeremiah Smith Boies, (a gentleman well known in Boston, wealthy and generous-hearted,) suggested to him the probability of success in the manufacture of playing-cards, and furnished the capital to make the experiment. The plan succeeded beyond expectation. Mr. Crehore's Yankee ingenuity was a fair balance for Mr. Boies's cash, and the partnership continued for some years, to mutual satisfaction.

# 1848.

Officers for the year, chosen at the annual meeting, January 6: —

Henry N. Hooper, *President.* Osmyn Brewster, *Treasurer.*
Billings Briggs, *Vice-President.* John Kuhn, *Secretary.*
Charles Bond, Joseph L. Bates,
David Tillson, John P. Ober,
Loyal Lovejoy, Nathaniel Francis,
Isaac Cary, Frederick H. Stimpson,
Leopold Herman, *Trustees.*

Committee of relief: — Walter Bryent, G. C. Sanborn, George Yendell, W. Mitchell, H. B. Crooker, William B. Oliver, W. R. Carnes, Elias Kingsley, Edward Maxwell. One thousand dollars (in addition to $459 85, balance of the preceding year's appropriation) was placed at the disposal of the committee.

On the recommendation of the library and reading room committee, it was voted, that the government should lease the hall and upper apartments in the edifice belonging to the Provident Institution for Savings, in Tremont-street; — and that the committee on a library and reading room should cause the hall to be fitted in a suitable manner for the purposes contemplated.* The committee also submitted a resolution, "That an assessment of Two dollars be laid on each member of the association, to meet the expenses contemplated in the preceding votes; and that the treasurer pay the same [the expenses referred to] from said assessments, upon the bills being approved by the committee." An amendment to this resolution was offered, purporting that the life members should be exempted from the contemplated assessment. On this proposed amendment quite an animated debate arose, in which several life members participated, and repudiated the

* For several years, the government had occupied a room in one of the city buildings in Court-square. Since the passage of these votes, the regular meetings of the association and of the government have been held in the hall of the building therein described.

expected to ask, to beg, in fact, for this *offered* gratuity, through a committee from our own body. This I strenuously, and perhaps somewhat indignantly resisted; for I *was* indignant that we had been drawn into so false a position; the upshot we all remember but too well. After infinite trouble and vain negotiations, the difficulties and vexations of which can never be appreciated by those who did not share in them, the whole project, to our then infinite mortification, fell to the ground. And, my friends, under all the circumstances, ought we not to thank God that it did so? We could not then have built independently; but now, since that design was providentially defeated, how different is our position! A course of policy has been adopted, under which our funds, if managed even with common prudence, will, in a few years, enable us, from our own resources, without asking from abroad for a single dollar, to carry out our long contemplated idea; to erect such an edifice as shall perfectly answer the purposes required for a library, for reading, conversation, and lecture rooms, accommodations for the government and for the secretary, and, in fact, for all we can desire, whether as regards the honor, or the usefulness of the association. And in carrying out this course of policy, by the erection of the Revere House, during which the conflicting opinions of individual members have at times thrown discouragement upon the efforts of the government, still your confidence has never been wanting; you have never discouraged us, but have given us all we asked for, and have passed the various measures from time to time proposed, uniformly with a cheerfulness and unanimity, for which, on their behalf, as well as for myself, I again express my sincere and heart-felt gratitude.

In the arrangements for the Fifth Exhibition, also, and during its continuance, you have seemed to feel the onerousness of the task devolving upon your officers, and your approbation and countenance have, so far as anything could, lightened those duties, and cheered their burdensome detail, by the reflection that we were not laboring in vain, nor spending our strength for nought; but that our toils (neither few nor small, I can assure you) were fully appreciated and approved by you, for whose honor and benefit they were undertaken.

And now, by your votes of this evening, you have laid upon me personally yet another obligation. You have gratified me beyond measure, by acceeding to my often expressed wishes for the commencement of a reading room and library. And this measure, so vitally important to the interests, the permanent interests of the association, and which could not have been much longer delayed without serious injury, has been commenced in a manner which promises entire success. You have, for the first time, burthened yourselves by an extra assessment. The first time, I should have said, for some years; — that those funds sacred to the relief of the destitute may not be touched; and you have, by the revival of a good old custom, given evidence of your entire readiness for extra exertions whenever the good of the institution requires them.

And finally, thanking from my heart the individual members composing the successive boards of government, during my term of office, for their uniform kindness and efficient aid at all times, and the association, one and all, for their considerate and constant support, — offering my best wishes for their health and happiness, and for the continued prosperity of this institution, so dear to us all, — I now bid you, gentlemen, one and all, a respectful, affectionate and grateful farewell.

The government were instructed to apply to the Legislature for power to hold additional real estate. The power applied for was granted, and an act was passed, authorizing "the association to hold real and personal estate to the value of One hundred thousand dollars, in addition to the amount they are now authorized to hold; and the income of the same shall be applied to the same purposes as are specified in the former acts concerning said association."

A committee, consisting of James Clark, Uriel Crocker, Robert Bacon, Charles Bond, and Pelham Bonney, was appointed "to revise the constitution throughout." On motion of Mr. Clark, the president was added to the committee.

At the government meeting, January 14, the vice-president, treasurer, and Loyal Lovejoy, were appointed a "committee on the Revere House, whose duty it should be to have the general oversight and care of that estate, and report as often as once in three months, — say, at the first meetings in April, July, October, and January, and at any other meeting of the government, when matters of interest may require it."

Special meetings of the government were frequently held, — chiefly for the transaction of business connected with the Revere House. Changes were made in the mortgages on that estate, found necessary in order to legalize the security for certain funds, obtained by voluntary subscriptions among the members, to pay outstanding bills. At a special meeting of the association, the committee were instructed to appropriate the net earnings of the Revere House to the payment of notes to Stephen Fairbanks and Uriel Crocker, amounting to Twenty-three thousand dollars, loaned by those members. Certain proposals, by the lessee of the house, for uniting with it an adjoining building, were received and acted upon.

March 9. Voted by the government, "That we attend the

funeral ceremonies, about to take place in this city, in honor of our late venerable and lamented honorary member, Ex-President JOHN QUINCY ADAMS; and that the association be notified, in the papers of the day, to assemble at their rooms, in the Savings bank, for the purpose of proceeding in a body to the place assigned them in the civic procession in honor of his memory.*

The treasurer informed the government, March 10, that, pursuant to instructions, he had effected insurance on the mechanic apprentices' library, for One thousand dollars.

Messrs. Henry N. Hooper & Co. presented to the association a bust of a late honorary member, Nathaniel Bowditch, LL. D. made of bronze, and cast at their foundry in 1844. The present was accepted and suitably acknowledged, and the bust was placed in the hall of the association.

The regular quarterly meeting, in April, was held, for the first time, at the association's rooms over the Savings bank. The committee on a library and reading room presented a partial report, and were allowed further time to complete their arrangements. The vote, instructing the committee to make general application to the members for donations or subscriptions, in aid of the proposed library, &c. was rescinded.

This meeting was again held, by adjournment, on the eighteenth day of the month, for the special purpose of considering the report of the committee on the revision of the constitution. The chairman of the committee read his report, which "embraced such alterations and amendments as the committee deemed desirable, in order to obviate the difficulties and perplexities which have occasionally arisen under the present form of the constitution." The various propositions of the committee were taken up separately; some were adopted without amendment; others produced discussion and were subjected to alterations. Meetings, concern-

* Owing to the inclemency of the weather, the "civic procession" did not take place The mayor of the city, on the morning of the day when the remains of Mr. Adams were to be deposited in Faneuil Hall, issued a notice, that there would be no procession, except the military escort, and carriages containing the committees of Congress and the Legislature.

ing the subject, were held by adjournment, April 25, May 2, and May 9. It was then voted, "that the whole subject of altering the constitution, with the report then before the association, be re-committed to the same committee, with instructions to report anew at the quarterly meeting in October. Four members, — Messrs. Fairbanks, Stimpson, Dow, and Marvin, — were added to the committee. A number of votes passed, on motion of different members, instructing the committee to consider the expediency of introducing other provisions into the constitution.

Twelve members were added to the government as a committee of arrangements for the Triennial Festival. On motion of George G. Smith, it was voted, "that the committee be requested to make such arrangements for the festival, as will permit the members to enjoy the privilege of introducing their ladies to the festivities of the occasion." As usual, the committee of arrangements divided their labors among subcommittees. The tickets of admission to the festival admitted one gentleman and two ladies, and the price was fixed at three dollars. The committee held seven meetings to mature their arrangements.

The festival and the quarterly meeting took place on the fifth of October. The association met at ten o'clock in the morning; and, after some preliminary affairs had been transacted, postponed all further incidental business to the next Wednesday evening, to which time it was voted to adjourn. At twelve o'clock, the members were formed in procession, by Granville Mears, chief marshal of the day, and preceded by a band of music, proceeded to the "Second Church" in Hanover-street. The customary religious services were performed by the Rev. S. H. Higgins, of the Methodist communion. The following ode, written by Epes Sargent, Esq. was sung by a select choir: —

God bless our native land!
Prosper the toiling band
Of every clime!
Bid all good efforts speed,
Whether by word or deed,
Till all mankind are freed,
From want and crime!

Oh! if to earth is given
One certain type of heaven,
One sacred fire, —
'Tis when the kindling sign
Of Charity divine
Glows on the true heart's shrine, —
Glows to inspire!

Then, Lord, our fathers' Lord,
Thy gracious smile accord,
Thy spirit send!
Quicken our faltering zeal,
May we, in wo or weal,
For others' suffering feel, —
Feel, and befriend!

We of ourselves are weak,
But in thy love we seek
Wisdom and might:
All that is good in Art
Thou and thy works impart;
Grateful be every heart!
God speed the Right!

An address was delivered by William Schouler, "breathing none other than a pure and lofty spirit, tending to awaken the slumbering energies of the mechanic, and encourage him to continue in the pursuit of knowledge, that he may develop to his senses the best, though sometimes hidden, resources, that lie within the grasp of an inquiring mind. In chaste and beautiful language, the speaker depicted the happiness that is in store for the mind that is devoted to the advancement of the arts and sciences, whilst he strove to stimulate to renewed and increased action all who cherish a well-founded regard for them."

At an early hour in the evening, the members and their guests, accompanied by female relatives and friends, assembled in Faneuil Hall. The president, Mr. Hooper, made a short speech, alluding to the fact, that this was the first time that woman had been invited to participate in the festivities of the occasion. He introduced to the audience, in succession, Governor Briggs, Josiah Quincy, jun. the mayor of the city, Robert C. Winthrop, member of Congress, and Lieutenant-governor Reed, — each of whom made his speech, complimentary of course to the mechanics. A supper was

prepared in the upper hall, and while a portion of the company were engaged in partaking of it, another portion exercised themselves in dancing, and thus, different sections alternated till the night was well nigh worn away.

An invitation from the city government, that the association should join in the public ceremonies which were to be observed in celebration of the introduction of the water of Lake Cochituate into the city, was received and accepted. Under the direction of Samuel Adams of Milton, as chief marshal, the members generally attended and joined in the public procession.

Soon after the opening of the rooms in the Savings bank building, the hall was decorated with the portraits of Benjamin Russell, presented to the association by Henry Farnham, Esq. in 1846; — of William Breed, — a benefactor, whose gift of a thousand dollars has been already noticed, — presented by William W. Clapp; and the full-length portrait of Harrison Gray Otis. The history of this picture is rather singular, and is explained in a report made to the association by Joseph L. Bates, chairman of the committee on the library, who had been requested to inquire into the origin and ownership of it. The report says, — "The information we have been able to collect respecting the portrait has been obtained only from the recollections of those who were original subscribers to its cost, or active in the business affairs and government of our association at the time it came into our possession. No correspondence concerning the portrait, or record of the gift, has as yet been found. The portrait was painted a number of years since by Mr. Chester Harding of this city, and was paid for by a subscription among Mr. Otis's friends and fellow-citizens. It has never had a permanent resting-place, but has been on exhibition a number of times, at the Boston Atheneum and at our own exhibition in Quincy Hall. At one of our exhibitions, about the year 1842, the government of the association were personally requested, by parties interested in its ownership, to take it into our keeping. At that time the elegant gilt frame, which incloses the picture, was obtained by subscription among our members; and it

appeared, for the first time, finished and complete. The portrait has been for a long time deposited at the Boston Atheneum, subject to the order of our association; and your committee recommend that it be placed in some suitable position in our own hall."

The bronze bust of Dr. Bowditch was placed in the hall, on a suitable pedestal.

The special committee on the "Library and Reading and Conversation Room," to whom was referred, under instruction from the association, the establishment and prosecution of that enterprize, made, October 16, the following *Report of Progress:* —

The subject was put into their hands in November of last year, with a proposal to procure a room, and immediately to wait upon the members of the association and solicit their aid either in the form of money or books. Such, however, was the pecuniary pressure under which the whole community were laboring, that it was deemed inexpedient at that time to proceed with this duty. It was thought that when such an appeal was made, it should be in a season of general prosperity; when the response should be of a character honorable alike to individuals and the association. But in the mean time, the committee have not been idle; the present elegant and commodious rooms have been engaged, and fitted up under our direction. If the committee had accomplished nothing more, their appointment would not have been in vain, for we now have rooms, centrally located, which we, in a certain sense, can call our own; we are not obliged from time to time to hire a hall to hold our meetings; our government and the secretary have an office for their accommodation, furnished with the best facilities for the transaction of business, and the members themselves have a place for social intercourse and communion whenever they may avail themselves of its privileges.

Although the project of a library was for a time postponed, yet it was deemed not advisable to give up the entire enterprize, and the committee were accordingly instructed to procure periodical matter, and commence the *Association's Reading Room.* The committee have, agreeably to their instructions, already subscribed for a large number of journals and newspapers. More can be added when the members resort to the rooms and indicate their wants. There are foreign periodicals of much merit, which should be upon our table. In fact, this department of our association should not be behind any other, as a depository for all those rich contributions to science and art, which the teeming press of the old and new world is continually pouring forth.

The next thing which seems to be necessary to carry out our under-

taking, is to mature some plan for the management of the rooms, and to select some person to be its responsible superintendent. The duties of our secretary have already become so arduous, that he finds it necessary to spend a portion of his time each day in his office, to meet the calls and business of the members. In order to make our reading department what it should be, an honor to the association and a real benefit to its members, will require the services of some one who can give nearly his undivided attention to it. The secretary is on the spot; becomes better acquainted with all the members than any other person; he is conversant with all the interests and affairs of the society; he is an important organ of the government, and seems peculiarly fitted, by these and other considerations, to fill with dignity this position. It has therefore been thought expedient by the committee, to recommend that rather than establish a new office, the duties of librarian and superintendent of the reading room be added to those of the secretary, with the understanding that he is to devote his entire time to them, and to receive for such services a suitable compensation.

Having thus given an account of the progress which we have made, and our views of the manner in which this new project should be conducted, the next question which occurs is, as to the source from which we shall procure the means to defray this additional expense. For this purpose we must examine the financial condition of the association, to see if the requisite amount can be withdrawn from our funds for this object. Our sources of income at the present time are two, — first from the Revere House, and the other from the annual assessments of the members. The first is solemnly pledged for a number of years, to pay a floating debt for money borrowed on account of said house. When this is liquidated we shall have a large and handsome income, amply sufficient for conducting the association upon a liberal scale. But it must necessarily be a number of years before this can be relied upon. The other source of supply is the admission fees and the annual assessments of the members; — and here we are met with the remarkable fact, that for a large number of years, the revenue from this source has not been equal to the expenditure. The amount distributed in charity among the members, and the funeral fee given to the families of the deceased, have far exceeded the sum received for such purposes.

It may be interesting to go a little more into detail in this matter, and accordingly we have called upon the treasurer, and from him have ascertained the following facts: — We have taken the past six years for our data, and find that the admission fees for this period have averaged $240 per year. There has been paid to families of deceased members $406 per year. Thus leaving an annual deficit of $166. There has been received from members' assessments, for the same time, $1,308 per year. There has been paid out to the committee of relief, for schools, and other necessary expenses, for the same time, $2,267 per year; — making a deficit from this source of $959 per year. Thus making the excess of ex-

penditure over receipts from these two sources amount to $1,125 per year. In short, the past six years we have received $9,285; and in the same time we have expended $16,042 92; — excess, $6,757 92. The balance has been made up by drawing upon other funds of the association; and the result would have been, if it were not for our investment in the Revere House, that the association would have grown poorer each year of its existence.

It seems then manifest, from these facts, that if the association wishes for greater advantages, its members must furnish more means for the purpose. This can be accomplished, either by a direct tax upon the members, or by a liberal voluntary contribution. It was proposed that a resort be made to both of these means, and accordingly the association, by a unanimous vote, laid an assessment of Two dollars upon each member, to meet the expenditure of fitting up and furnishing the rooms, and giving an impetus to the commencement of the undertaking. This assessment has generally been cheerfully paid, and now the question occurs, has the period arrived when we shall appeal to the liberality of the members, to carry out the undertaking to its final consummation, or shall we stop here, and remain satisfied with what we have already done. The committee would advise to neither course, but would suggest that our object might be obtained without materially increasing our annual expenses, if we are willing to keep them what they are, drawing upon the future for payment, provided we withhold for the present another appropriation, which in the minds of many has become to be considered one of questionable utility.

For a number of years we have expended from $500 to $600 annually for a drawing school, — an object in itself most praise worthy, but not so satisfactory in its results. We believe that all, who have been conversant with it, have become satisfied that although some good has been accomplished, yet it has not in any degree been commensurate with its large expenditure. The school has usually commenced each year with a goodly number of pupils, but has as uniformly as the novelty wore off, soon dwindled down to a small number. A large proportion of the seats are vacant nearly all the season, while at the same time the association are paying for the education of a full school. For this no blame can be attached to the teacher or the committee, but it is an evil growing necessarily out of a system which cannot be easily remedied. Now, we propose, for the present, that this expenditure should cease, and that the same funds or a portion of them be devoted to other laudable purposes of the association. Let us have a reading room, filled with the intellectual treasures of the day, where we can often meet each other, and promote those mutual good offices and fellowship, which was the leading feature in the early design of the association. If this amount of our funds is appropriated as it has been, its effects are limited; only a few apprentices of the members are benefited; while, on the other hand, in the plan proposed, the whole association of members derive an advantage, and some

real and tangible good is seen and acknowledged. Let us feel that one of the great objects for which we are associated, is to create a union of sympathy and interest. The most efficient means to this end is to foster frequent meetings and social intercourse. When this is accomplished, we can extend our influence and let others besides ourselves share in its blessings.

The committee therefore would recommend, that the rooms of the association be opened forthwith, at convenient hours of the day and evening, for the accommodation of the members; and that the secretary be requested to take charge of them and the reading department, for which services he shall be suitably compensated at the discretion of the government.

All of which is respectfully submitted, in behalf of the committee.

F. W. LINCOLN, Jun.

The committee on the drawing school submitted a report, embracing a letter from its teacher, Mr. D. C. Johnston, and detailing the course of instruction. A commitee was appointed to take into consideration the subject of the school, and report a plan of future operation. A motion was made, that $400 be appropriated to continue the school, — which was laid upon the table.

The president, as chairman of the committee of finance, made a report to the government, October 26, as follows: —

*To the Government of the Association.*

Gentlemen, — The association, at their meeting held on the sixteenth instant, *Voted*, "That the rooms of the association be opened forthwith, at convenient hours of the day and evening, for the accommodation of the members; and that the secretary be requested to take charge of them and the reading department, for which service he shall be suitably compensated, at the discretion of the government."

To carry said vote into execution would involve the expenditure of moneys, therefore the committee of finance, in the discharge of their duties as overseers of the fiscal concerns of the association, would respectfully report: —

That they have advised with the treasurer in relation to the finances of the association, and would state, from information derived from him, that the condition of the treasury is such, as, in our opinion, calls for the exercise of the most rigid economy in our expenditures, as said vote cannot be executed unless the necessary means are first provided.

HENRY N. HOOPER, *Chairman.*

This report was deliberately considered, and it was therefore, "*Resolved*, That it would be improper for this board to

incur the expense contemplated by a vote of the association, passed on the sixteenth instant, for the establishment of a reading room, without the necessary means to meet the same be first provided."

This report and resolution were submitted to the association for the information of the members. They were taken up, and discussed at a special meeting in the month of October, and were referred to the next regular meeting.

The report of the committee of relief, stated that thirty-four individuals had received assistance from the funds. Thirty of the recipients were widows, most of whom were old and infirm. One had a husband living, from whom she received no aid, and had several young children to support. Two males were on the list of recipients, both old and infirm, and very destitute. The amount distributed by the committee was Nine hundred and thirty-five dollars.

The whole amount of money received by the treasurer, from various sources, during the year, was $41,225 61; the disbursements, $40,724 45; leaving a balance in his hands, of $501 16. The available property of the association consisted of the Revere House, (cost) $143,299 38; cash in hands of the treasurer, $501 16; amount due from members, $1,856. Making in all the sum of *One hundred and forty-five thousand six hundred and fifty-six dollars and fifty-four cents.* The indebtedness of the association, was, notes payable to the Provident Institution for Savings, $65,000; script issued for temporary loan, $17,700; interest accrued, $2,272 42. Total, *Eighty-four thousand nine hundred and seventy-two dollars and forty-two cents.*

The property to which no value was affixed, consisted of an iron safe for books and papers, — desks, tables, chairs, time-piece, gas fixtures, carpets, stoves, portraits, books and pamphlets, in the library, &c. &c. Leaving the net amount of the property of the association, without taking into account office furniture and fixtures, *Sixty thousand six hundred and eighty dollars.*

In the report of the committee of finance, from which the preceding statement is abridged, it is said, — " At the time

the association authorized the script above named, it was proposed to issue the amount of $24,000, — that being about the amount of the floating debt at that time. Although great exertions were made by the government, they were not able to dispose of so large an amount to the members, and it was thought unadvisable to offer it out of the association. The most of that amount had been due from the association for some time, and, owing to the great scarcity of money, the demands were quite urgent. At this critical juncture, when our credit was likely to be impaired for the non-payment of dues, our oft-tried and faithful friend, the treasurer, generously stepped forward, and, by his money and credit, relieved the association from its immediate pressing wants; and through his continued assistance during the year, our debts have been met, and our credit preserved." The committee spoke in the warmest terms of commendation of the treasurer, for his entire devotion to the interest and welfare of the institution; and also of those members of the association, who generously came forward with their money, and took the script, bearing six per cent. interest, when a much higher rate could easily have been obtained for loans in almost any sums.

Only five persons appear to have been admitted during the year, viz: —

John Vose, jun. Patent-leather-manufacturer.
Charles Woodbury, Mason.
William P. McKay, Watch-maker.
Leonard Fuller, Iron-founder.
Thomas Blanchard, Machinist.

Three members were discharged at their own request. Twelve were discharged for delinquency, the aggregate amount of whose arrearages was One hundred and ninety-two dollars.

The annual report states that one life member and eight of the members liable to assessments had died, viz: — Ruel Baker, Cornelius Briggs, Eleazer Nichols, Lewis Burckis, William G. Edwards, Edward Sargent, Theodore Washburn, and Samuel N. Dickinson.*

* Samuel Nelson Dickinson, the originator of the "Boston Almanac," and its conductor and publisher for fourteen years, was born in the town of Phelps, Ontario

One life member deceased, namely, JOSEPH LOVERING. This venerable gentleman had been one of the most valued and respected members of the association; nor was he less valued and respected by his fellow-citizens, who often placed him in offices of trust and responsibility. He was the son of Joseph Lovering, a tallow-chandler, and worked with his father as an apprentice, till he was twenty-one years of age. He and a brother carried on the business many years in connection with their father, under the firm of Joseph Lovering & Sons. Afterwards he pursued his calling separately. He joined the association in 1799, and was chosen treasurer in 1812. This office he held seventeen years, discharging its duties with the strictest fidelity. The records furnish ample evidence of the generosity of his heart, and the memories of some of his cotemporaries are richly stored with testimonials of his virtuous principles and good deeds. Mr. Lovering was, many years, a selectman and a fire ward, under the old town government, and was for some time treasurer of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society. He was born September 19, 1758, and died June 30, 1848, at the good old age of eighty-nine years, eight months, and twenty-five days.

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county, N. Y. December 11, 1801, and died in Roxbury, December 16, 1848, in the forty-eighth year of his age. At an early age, he was left an orphan in humble circumstances. He began to learn the art of printing in Geneva, N. Y. His employer died, and he went to New-York, where he remained a year or two, and then went to Boston, and pursued his occupation at the type foundry. In 1829 he began business for himself, in two small apartments at No. 52 Washington-street. "His office rapidly went through a series of transformations, in perfect accordance with his character. Wall after wall was perforated, till his establishment comprized twelve spacious halls and rooms, covering over an acre of ground, crowded with an innumerable variety of materials of the choicest kind, and comprizing a perfect foundery for the manufacture of type." Mr. Dickinson acquired an extended reputation by a perseverance and devotion to his calling, almost unparalleled, and which brought on consumption and premature death. [See Boston Almanac, 1850, page 3.]

# 1849.

Annual meeting, January 4. The president, as chairman, presented the report of the committee appointed to "revise the constitution," which was read and laid on the table. The president stated that the committee had given to the subject their careful consideration, and submitted a draft of a constitution, which, they believed, contained all that was desirable in the present instrument, and such additions as were deemed necessary to meet the condition of the association. For the purpose of enabling the association to act on the report understandingly, the draft of the proposed constitution was presented in a printed form. He further stated, that, by a vote of May 9, 1848, the committee were "requested to devise some plan, by which future nominations of officers of the association may be made at large;" — that "they had given to the subject their careful attention, and came to the conclusion, that it is inexpedient to make any constitutional provision in relation thereto: — believing it to be more appropriate to leave the matter with the members, to be disposed of as they may deem best for the time being."

The president next called the attention of the members to the vote, passed by the association in October last, in relation to the opening of the rooms of the association and giving them in charge of the secretary, — and asked what action should be had thereon? No motion was made in relation to the subject, and it remained without action.

After the presentation of other reports, which referred exclusively to the affairs of the preceding year, the following officers were elected: —

Henry N. Hooper, *President.*
Billings Briggs, *Vice-President.*
Isaac Cary,
Leopold Herman,
Joseph L. Bates,
Nathaniel Francis,
Frederick H. Stimpson,

Osmyn Brewster, *Treasurer.*
John Kuhn, *Secretary.*
John P. Ober,
Robert Marsh,
Joel Wheeler,
Peter C. Jones,
*Trustees.*

Committee of relief, — G. C. Sanborn, George Yendall, H. B. Crooker, William B. Oliver, Elias Kingsley, Edward Maxwell, Charles G. King, Caleb T. Pratt, and Willard Hawes. One thousand dollars was appropriated for their distribution.

The report of the committee on the new constitution was taken from the table, and, on motion, voted that the consideration of it be postponed to a special meeting on the twelfth instant. At that meeting the new draft underwent a thorough discussion; some articles were slightly amended; every section was acted upon separately, and nearly every one was adopted. Another special meeting was held on the nineteenth of the same month, when the discussion was renewed. When the whole had been acted upon by separate paragraphs, the question was put on adopting the constitution as a whole. The votes were twelve for its adoption and eleven against it. The question was therefore decided in the negative, — *three fourths* of the members present being required in the affirmative to alter or amend the constitution.

Another special meeting was held on the twenty-first of February, when F. H. Stimpson moved, that "the constitution be amended, by substituting for the present one the draft which was submitted in print, by a committee, at the meeting held on the twelfth of January; and that the proposition be referred to a committee of three, to report at the quarterly meeting in April next." The motion was carried, and F. H. Stimpson, Uriel Crocker, and Theophilus R. Marvin, were chosen to compose the committee. This committee presented their report at the appointed time. The report, having been duly considered, it was voted unanimously, "That we accept the report of the committee; and that we adopt the printed form of the constitution accompanying said report, amended agreeably to the propositions of the reporting committee on a revision of the constitution."

The committee to whom was referred the motion of F. H. Stimpson, to amend the constitution by substituting for the present one, the draft submitted in print by the committee at the meeting of the association held on the twelfth of January last, report: —

That they have carefully considered the same, together with the various amendments to it, which were proposed at the several meetings at

which it was under discussion, and now submit it, with such alterations and amendments, as, judging from the discussions and votes at these meetings, they believe will meet the views of the members of the association generally, — and they therefore recommend that the accompanying draft, which they have caused to be printed, be adopted as the constitution of this association, omitting the words "and by-laws" in the preamble and in article eleventh.

For the committee. FREDERICK H. STIMPSON.

## CONSTITUTION.

### PREAMBLE.

It is universally admitted, that the combined operations of the Mechanic Powers have been the source of those useful inventions and scientific arts, which have given to polished society its wealth, conveniencies, respectability and defence; and which have ameliorated the condition of its citizens. Rational, then, is the inference, that the association of those who conduct these powers in their operations, will prove highly beneficial, in promoting mutual good offices and fellowship; in assisting the necessitous; encouraging the ingenious; and in rewarding fidelity. To effect these desirable ends, the present associates agree to be governed, as a society, by the following constitution: —

### ARTICLE I. NAME AND QUALIFICATIONS.

§ 1. The name of this association, as specified in the act of incorporation, shall be "The Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association."

§ 2. This association shall consist of mechanics, manufacturers, and those practised in the arts. If a mechanic, he shall be a master workman; if a manufacturer, he shall be either a managing proprietor, or a superintendent of a manufactory; if an artist, he shall be in management of business on his own account; except as provided in Art. 2. Sec. 3.

§ 3. Every person, to become a member, must be twenty-one years of age, of good moral character, be approved by the government, receive two thirds of the votes of the members present at a regular meeting of the association, pay to the secretary such admission fees as the regulations may require, and within ninety days subscribe to the constitution.

§ 4. The officers of this associaion shall be a president, vice-president, treasurer, twelve trustees, and a secretary; and they shall constitute and be denominated "The Government of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association."

### ARTICLE II. CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP.

§ 1. The amount of admission fee shall be according to the age of the person admitted, as follows: —

From 21 to 35 years of age, fifteen dollars.
From 35 to 50 years of age, twenty dollars.
Fifty years and upwards, twenty-five dollars.

Each member shall be subject to quarter-yearly assessments of Fifty cents.

§ 2. Any person possessing suitable qualifications, may become a life member, by paying Forty dollars. Any member who has been such for thirty years uninterruptedly, and has paid all assessments, shall be considered a life member. Any member who has been such for twenty years, and has paid all assessments, may become a life member on the payment of Ten dollars. Any member who has been such for ten years, and has paid all assessments, may become a life member on the payment of Twenty dollars. Any member who has paid all assessments, may become a life member by paying Thirty dollars. Life members shall be exempt from the quarterly assessments, but shall be subject to all other rules of the association.

§ 3. Such persons of distinction, patrons of the arts, and friends to mechanics, as the association shall, from time to time, agree upon, may be admitted honorary members by a vote of two thirds of the members present at any regular meeting; but they shall not be entitled to any of the pecuniary, elective, or controlling privileges of the association.

### ARTICLE III. MEETINGS.

§ 1. The meetings of the association shall be held on the first Wednesday of January, April, July, and October, at such time and place, in Boston, as the president shall direct. But should any public event occur on the day appointed for either of said meetings, the president, with the advice of the government, may call a meeting on a prior or subsequent day.

§ 2. Every third year from 1821 there shall be a public festival, in October, unless the association, at their meeting in January previous, otherwise decide; on which occasion an address shall be pronounced by a member. The expenses of such festivals shall be defrayed by an assessment on the members; *provided, nevertheless,* that if any member be out of the State, or be prevented by sickness from attending, or shall leave a notice in writing with the secretary, fifteen days at least before the celebration of such festival, that it is not his intention to partake of the same, he shall be excused from paying the assessment which shall be laid therefor.

§ 3. The regular meetings of the government shall be held monthly, and at such time and place as they may direct.

### ARTICLE IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

§ 1. The election of officers shall be held at the first meeting in January, annually, by written votes, a majority making a choice. The president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary, shall be voted for separately; the trustees may all be named on one ticket. In case the association should fail to elect all or either of its officers on the aforesaid day, the meeting may be adjourned from time to time, until such election is com-

pleted; provided, however, that not more than ten days shall intervene from one adjournment to another.

§ 2. The same person shall not be eligible to the office of president, vice-president or trustee, more than three years successively.

ARTICLE V. DUTY OF OFFICERS.

§ 1. The president shall preside at the meetings of the association and government. He shall call special meetings whenever a majority of the government shall deem it expedient. He shall sign all documents and certificates issued by the association or government. He may appoint such temporary subordinate officers, from time to time, as may be deemed necessary for the promotion of order, and the arrangement of processions. He shall read, or cause to be read, the journal of proceedings at the regular meetings of the government and association.

§ 2. The vice-president shall sign all official documents which require the signature of the president. In the absence of the president, he shall preside in the association and government. In the absence of the president and vice-president, a president *pro tempore* shall be chosen to preside.

§ 3. The treasurer shall be intrusted with all the property of the association not otherwise provided for. He shall, from time to time, invest and dispose of the funds in such manner as, with the advice of the committee of finance, he shall deem most beneficial. He shall report annually, the amount and species of property in his care. He shall pay no money without a warrant from the committee of finance. He shall exhibit his accounts annually, for their inspection, and shall give them a bond with sufficient surety, for the faithful discharge of his trust.

§ 4. The secretary shall keep a fair and correct journal of the proceedings of the association and government. He shall collect all assessments and other dues from members, and pay the amount over quarter-yearly to the treasurer, taking his receipt for the same. He shall notify each candidate of his admission, within ten days thereafter. He shall notify each member of his dues to the association. He shall issue notifications for all meetings of the association and government. He shall furnish the chairman of each committee with the vote of his appointment, and attend the meetings of committees when required. He shall furnish the committee of relief with the name of every person discharged from the association. He shall exhibit annually, to the committee of finance, a statement of his receipts and payments, and submit his accounts to their inspection. He shall be exempt from assessments or periodical dues, and receive such compensation for his services as shall be designated by the committee of finance.

ARTICLE VI. COMMON SEAL.

The association shall have a common seal, which shall be in the care of the secretary, and which shall be affixed to all its official documents and certificates which require the signature of the president.

ARTICLE VII. GOVERNMENT.

It shall be the duty of the government to guard the interest, respectability, and prosperity of the association. They shall superintend its prudential concerns, and pursue such measures as, in their opinion, will best promote them. They may correspond with other association of mechanics and manufacturers, on such subjects as are calculated to promote the general objects of this institution, and shall submit such correspondence to the association, for the information of its members. They shall have power to remit arrearages to unfortunate members, and to grant such sums to indigent members, their widows, or orphans, as they shall think proper, not exceeding Twenty dollars in any one instance. They shall report to the association, at every quarterly meeting, all remittances and donations made by them during the recess. They shall examine and approve the record of their last meeting, previous to reading the same at the quarterly meeting of the association. They shall, annually, at their first meeting after the election of officers, appoint a committee of finance, consisting of the president, (who shall be chairman *ex officio*,) the vice-president, and three trustees, the latter to be chosen by written votes.

ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES.

§ 1. A committee of relief shall be chosen by nomination annually, on the day for and after the choice of officers, whose duty it shall be to seek out and relieve such indigent members of the association, or their families, as may be proper objects of charity, and to receive and act on all petitions for relief. They shall report their doings quarterly to the secretary, that he may lay them before the government. They shall make an annual report in detail to the government, previous to the election of officers, which report shall not be recorded.

§ 2. The committee of finance shall superintend the expenditures of the association; they shall advise with the treasurer respecting the investment of funds, and shall have the general oversight of the fiscal concerns of the association. They shall examine the records and accounts of the treasurer and secretary, at the close of the year, and report a statement of the property of the association, previous to the election of officers.

ARTICLE IX. GENERAL REGULATIONS.

§ 1. Beneficence, and the promotion of the industrial arts, are the main objects of this association, and, to effect these, such appropriations shall be made as may be consistent with its funds.

§ 2. On the death of a member, the treasurer shall immediately present the sum of Forty dollars to his widow, family, or legal representative; but when there is no widow, family, nor legal representative, then the money shall be appropriated to defray his funeral expenses; first, in all cases, deducting therefrom his dues to the association.

§ 3. As it is compatible with the act of incorporation, and the good of society, the association may, from time to time, when the state of its finances will warrant, grant such premiums for superior workmanship in the respective arts, as the government shall deem expedient.

§ 4. Any member who shall suffer his dues to the association to amount to Six dollars, having been duly notified thereof by the secretary, shall be liable to forfeit his membership, and it shall be the duty of the government to report such members to the association for discharge, unless, in their judgement, there be circumstances to excuse such delinquency. A member, having been discharged for delinquency, shall not be again admitted without having first paid his past dues, and been balloted for by the association.

§ 5. To reward industry, correct habits, and fidelity, the association decrees, that when an apprentice of a member, on arriving at twenty-one years of age, shall produce a certificate from the person with whom he hath served his apprenticeship, that he has behaved with fidelity and attention, and has not violated any agreement made by him, it shall be the duty of the government to direct that he be furnished with a certificate, sealed with the seal of the association, signed by the president and vice-president, and attested by the secretary. Which certificate shall be in the following terms: —

*Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association.*

To all who shall see these presents, Greeting.

Whereas ——, of ——, hath presented to us the certificate of ——, of ——, setting forth, that the said —— hath duly discharged the duties, and fulfilled his engagements, as a faithful apprentice, and that he recommends him as worthy the countenance of the association; Therefore,

We, the president and vice-president, in behalf of said association, do grant him this certificate of our approbation; and do recommend him to the notice, encouragement, protection, and patronage of all persons, in all countries where he may sojourn.

In testimony whereof, we have caused the seal of our association to be attached to these presents, and signed the same, this —— day of ——, in the year of our Lord ——, and in the —— year of our institution.

—— —— *President.*

Attest, —— —— *Vice-President.*

—— —— *Secretary.*

§ 6. The government shall have power, at any meeting, by a unanimous vote of the members present, to expel any member who shall be adjudged to be guilty of ungentlemanlike or dishonorable conduct; but the member so expelled may appeal to the association at any time within one year from such expulsion.

§ 7. It shall be considered dishonorable and ungentlemanly conduct

for any member of this association to employ the apprentice of another person, who shall have left his service without his consent, unless the consent of the government of the association that such apprentice may be so employed shall have been obtained. But no such subject shall be brought before the government until the person aggrieved shall have applied to the offending member, and the latter shall have refused, or for an unreasonable length of time neglected, to give proper satisfaction.

§ 8. Every person becoming a member shall be entitled to an authenticated certificate of his membership, and a copy of the constitution.

§ 9. Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the government, it shall be their duty to call a special meeting of the association, to fill the same.

§ 10. There shall be an appropriate STANDARD for the association, to be borne in general procession.

ARTICLE X RULES OF ORDER.

§ 1. At all meetings of the association or government, the members shall be called to order within thirty minutes after the time named in the notification for the meeting, provided a quorum is present; to form which, nine members shall be necessary in the government, and twenty-one in the association.

§ 2. In all questions discussed in the association, the person speaking shall stand uncovered, and address the presiding officer; he shall not be interrupted while speaking, except to be called to order. These rules shall also be observed in the government, except that the member may be seated while speaking.

§ 3. No member shall speak more than twice to the same question, except for the purpose of explanation; unless he obtains permission from the members present.

§ 4. The presiding officer shall have power, and it shall be his duty, to regulate the deliberative proceedings of the association and government, agreeably to legislative usage.

§ 5. No subject foreign to the purposes of the association shall be introduced at any of its meetings for business.

ARTICLE XI.

§ 1. The foregoing constitution may be amended or repealed whenever three quarters of the number present at any meeting shall so determine; but no such alteration shall be made unless the subject shall have been proposed at a previous meeting, and, in the mean time, referred to a committee, and the same specified on the notification for the meeting at which it is to be considered.

§ 2. All former rules and regulations of the association inconsistent with this constitution are hereby repealed.

A special meeting of the association was held on the twenty-first of February, "agreeably to the request of Jacob Bacon and fifty-one other members of the association, for the purpose of considering the propriety of selling the real estate of the association, known as the Revere House." Mr. Bacon offered, for the consideration of the meeting, the following resolve: — "*Resolved*, That a committee of five be chosen by nomination, to take into consideration the propriety of selling the Revere House, and report at the next quarterly meeting of the association." A general debate followed, in which Messrs. Bacon, Monroe, Wightman, Sears, Gilbert, Fairbanks, Marvin, Urann, Smith, Darracott, Armstrong, Coolidge, and Brown, were the prominent speakers. It was then voted, that the further consideration of the subject be indefinitely postponed.

At the quarterly meeting, April 5, Stephen Fairbanks offered the following paper: —

*Boston, April 5*, 1849.

MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION.

Whereas, This association is the owner of a valuable real estate in this city, known as the Revere House, which has been leased for a term of years to Mr. Paran Stevens, as a house for public entertainment; and whereas it is currently reported that there is attached to said establishment a public bar-room, which is accessible from the street, and open at all hours of the day and evening to any person who may desire to obtain intoxicating drinks at retail, in violation of the statutes of this commonwealth; and whereas the keeping of such a public bar-room would be, in the opinion of the members of this association, contrary to the spirit, if not to the letter, of the agreement made with the said lessee; therefore voted, That the government of this association be, and they hereby are, appointed a committee, with instructions to ascertain the truth in relation to said bar-room; and if it shall be found that it exists, as reported, in violation of said agreement, or is kept and continued for unlawful purposes, that they shall immediately take such action in the matter as they may deem most advisable for the honor as well as the interests of the association, and report at the next quarterly meeting.

The memorial having been read from the chair, a brief discussion ensued. A motion for indefinite postponement was rejected, and the consideration of it was postponed to the next quarterly meeting. At that meeting, the preamble and

resolve were adopted, and the committee directed to report their doings thereon at the next quarterly meeting. The subject was taken up by the government for consideration, August 10, and, after brief discussions, was referred to a committee, composed of the president, Messrs. Stimpson and Marvin. This committee made the annexed report to the government, which was accepted, to be presented to the association as their report: —

The committee to whom was referred the resolutions passed by the association on the fifth of July last, have carefully considered the same, and beg leave respectfully to report: —

The resolutions allege, first, "That it is currently reported that there is attached to the Revere House a public bar-room accessible from the street." And, second, "That the keeping of such a bar-room is contrary to the spirit, if not to the letter of the agreement made with the lessee." Thirdly, "They direct the government to inquire into the truth of these allegations, and to take such action in the matter as they may deem most advisable for the honor, as well as the interest, of the association." And they were evidently passed under the supposition that the association, in the agreement made with the present lessee, retained the right to inquire into and control the sale of liquor and wine in said house.

The only legal evidence of the contract made with the lessee, is the lease. On examining that, your committee find that it contains no reservation of the right alluded to. It is a lease in the usual form, conveying to Mr. Stevens for the term of ten years, the premises called the Revere House, for the purpose of keeping a first-class hotel, upon the condition that he pay a certain annual rent. They do not find in the lease, or indeed in the proceedings of the association or of the government which resulted in the making of the lease, any allusion to "a bar," the sale of liquors, or the manner in which said house shall be kept, — except, as before stated, that it is to be kept as a "first-class hotel;" and they are constrained to say, in justice to the lessee, that the second allegation is not correct. That the lessee has promptly and fully performed all the covenants on his part to be performed, — and has kept a hotel second to none in the United States, — and promptly paid the rent as agreed, — and that while he continues to do so, the association have no right to interfere with the management of his house.

Your committee have not deemed it necessary to inquire into the truth of the first allegation, it being evident that whatever might be the result of such inquiry, the association have no power over the matter.

That the lease might have been drawn so as to have reserved such control, and that, at the expiration of the present lease, if the association shall continue to own the property, and then shall deem such a reservation expedient, it can be so drawn, is not questioned; — but, inasmuch

as until that time, the association have, of their own accord, relinquished all control over the matter, your committee do not perceive that either its honor or its interest require anything to be done; — and they therefore recommend that these facts be stated to the association at their meeting in October next, — and, if it is deemed expedient, a copy of the lease be furnished, for the information of its members; — and that the government ask to be discharged from any further consideration of the subject.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

HENRY N. HOOPER,
FREDERICK H. STIMPSON,
T. R. MARVIN,
*Committee.*

This report was presented to the association, October 3, and was accepted by a nearly unanimous vote.

A misunderstanding occurred between a member of the committee of relief and another member, touching a donation of Five dollars, to the widow of a deceased member, which took up the attention of the government at several meetings, and was adjusted to the general satisfaction of the association.

The treasurer received during the year, the sum of $15,785 24, — which, with a balance in his hands at the commencement of the year, of $501 16, amounted to $16,286 40. During the same term, his disbursements amounted to $13,536 75, — leaving a balance, to be carried to a new account, of $2,749 65. The property of the association is thus stated by the committee of finance: —

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|---|---|
| The Revere House, costing . . | $143,608 38 |
| Cash, in treasurer's hands, . . | 2,749 65 |
| Arrearages due from members, . | 1,448 50 |
| | $147,806 53 |
| Indebtedness, . . . . . | 81,884 08 |
| Balance, | $65,922 45 |

"The particulars which make up this statement" are on file, with other details, which do not appear on the record.

The following persons appear to have been admitted as members: —

Michael Dalton, Type-founder.
Joseph W. Colman, Mason.
N. C. A. Preble, Tailor.
Nathan Frye, Machinist.
Enoch Lewis, Machinist.
Thomas I. Roberts, Mason.

George Bothomly, Plumber.
Lewis Kirk, Engineer.
William H. Howard, Iron-founder.
Samuel M. Pook, Shipwright.
George B. Foster, Watch-maker.
Benjamin F. Baker, Painter.
Abel Stowell, Watch-maker.
John H. Bacon, Manufacturer of Feltings.
William Bogle, Wig-maker.
Joseph Crashaw, Carpet-manufacturer.
George N. Nichols, Tailor.
William Pearce, Plumber.
Jonathan E. Hazleton, Manufacturer.
Henry Whiton, Carriage-manufacturer.
Philo Sandford, Lead--manufacturer.

Hon. Robert C. Winthrop was elected an honorary member.

James Brown, Warren Thaxter, Thomas Bagnall, John Sikes, John Wiley, James Spear, and Nathaniel K. Lombard* deceased.

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## 1850.

Officers chosen at the annual meeting, January 2: —

Henry N. Hooper, *President.*
Billings Briggs, *Vice-President.*
Nathaniel Francis,
Robert Marsh,
Samuel Adams,
Granville Mears,
Frederick H. Stimpson,
Joel Wheeler,
Osmyn Brewster, *Treasurer.*
John Kuhn, *Secretary.*
Frederic W. Lincoln, jun.
Hiram Bosworth,
John P. Ober,
Peter C. Jones,
Theophilus R. Marvin,
Matthew Binney, *Trustees.*

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* No notice is made of the decease of Mr. Lombard on the record or on the treasurer's books, from which it is presumed that no claim was made for the funeral fee. He was born in Truro, on Cape Cod, November 28, 1784, and served an apprenticeship with Henry Hutchinson, sail-maker, of Boston. His father was Captain Ephraim Lombard, who removed to Boston in 1786, and was engaged as master mariner, in the employ of the Messrs Codmans, until 1800. Our associate began business for himself as a sail-maker, February 4, 1806, on Brimmer's wharf, (the T,) and continued a successful career, with great industry, till the time of his death, a period of more than forty-three years On the fourth of February, 1846, the proprietors of the T, by Martin Brimmer, Esq. presented to Mr. Lombard a silver pitcher, as a token of their esteem and respect for a tenant, who had pursued his business on the same spot for a term of forty years, — a fact, supposed to be of rare occurrence, — the connection having been mutually satisfactory. Mr. Lombard died at his country residence, in West-Cambridge, October 1, 1849.

Nine members were appointed a committee of relief, and the sum of One thousand dollars placed at their disposal.

The president laid before the association a letter he had received from Bryant P. Tilden, jun. concerning a school, which the writer was endeavoring to establish for instruction in the sciences of mathematics, mechanics, &c. and asking the aid and countenance of the association, which was referred to the government, and by the government to a sub-committee. On the suggestion of the committee, a meeting of the association was held, at which the public were invited to attend, to hear from Mr. Tilden a personal explanation of his project. Mr. Tilden delivered a written address, setting forth his plan, and the advantages he supposed the association would derive from their participation in it. The meeting was also addressed by several members of the association, and by Messrs. I. J. Austin, S. K. Lothrop, and C. B. Goodrich, — all of whom expressed their conviction that the plan was practicable and of great importance to the community; — that it would tend to elevate the character and condition of the mechanics and engineers, of this section of the country at least, and perhaps, if rightly sustained, would exert a wider influence than can at present be contemplated by its most ardent advocates." The committee, to whom Mr. Tilden's letter had been referred, reported to the government, January 28, as follows: —

The special committee, to whom was referred the communication of Mr. Bryant P. Tilden, jun. in regard to a new school for engineers and practical mechanics, have devoted much time to the consideration of the subject, and beg leave to offer the following report: —

They have had several interviews with the gentleman, have visited his school, and examined the project with some care, and are happy to report that the result is of a satisfactory character. He appears to be a person of high intellectual culture, and of peculiar capacity to teach the several branches of mathematics and mechanics, contemplated in the design of the school. He seems moreover to be a man of great energy and enterprize, inspired with a good deal of enthusiasm in regard to the plan, and appears not to be lacking in any of those qualities which deserve, and will command, success. As an illustration of this fact, it may be stated that one hundred and twenty young men engaged in mechanical pursuits have already enrolled their names as students since the commencement of the school.

The peculiar relation which he wishes the association to assume, in regard to the school, is embraced in certain propositions which have been made to the committee, and which will be presented to the government with this report. They do not involve any pecuniary liability or responsibility, but are supervisory in their character.

The plan is to establish an institution of high character and reputation, to furnish the student in mechanical pursuits with such aid in instruction as West-Point gives to the military, or Cambridge to the professional man. An enterprize so comprehensive in its design and so important in its results, it is thought, cannot be carried on efficiently as a private affair; and hence he wishes to interest our association as a public body in its favor.

The committee do not feel it their duty to enter into an elaborate argument in behalf of such an institution. Their only doubt has been as to its practicability. They will confess, however, that the more they have examined the subject, the more feasible seems to be its success. They feel it a duty which the association owes to its own elevated position and character, to lend the little encouragement which is desired. If it should fail, it will not involve us in any loss; and if it succeed, it will redound to our honor and advantage.

The committee, therefore, would recommend that such books and mechanical apparatus as may be useful to the school be freely loaned to Mr. Tilden, he being responsible for the safe keeping and return of the same. They also recommend that he be invited to deliver a public lecture upon the interests of the school in our hall, at which the members of the association and their apprentices shall be present. And, farther, that a committee of the government, or association, be annually appointed as a board of visitors or overseers of the institution, with such powers and duties as may hereafter be agreed upon.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

GRANVILLE MEARS,
JOEL WHEELER,
F. W. LINCOLN, Jun.
OSMYN BREWSTER,
T. R. MARVIN,
*Committee.*

Mr. Lincoln also presented the following resolutions for the consideration of the government:—

*Resolved*, That the government do heartily approve of the mechanics and engineers' school, recently established under the care of Mr. Bryant P. Tilden, jun. and deem it expedient that it should receive the care of the association and the patronage of its members.

*Resolved*, That, in conformity with Mr. Tilden's request, we deem it advisable that, at the commencement of each term of the school, a board

of visitors be appointed, whose duty it shall be to visit said school from time to time, examine into all matters connected with its progress, make such suggestions and recommendations in its management as may seem best, consult in the appointment of assistant teachers, and in a supervisory manner do all that they deem expedient to foster its interests and promote its prosperity. They shall annually appoint one general examination of the school, and shall present to the government a report of their proceedings, and of the success and condition of the school, which report shall be read to the association at the quarterly meeting in October.

*Resolved*, That the board of visitors shall be annually appointed by the government, and consist of the president and vice-president, *ex officio*, and four other members of the government, and five gentlemen from the association; — and they shall not incur any pecuniary liability or responsibility.

After deliberation and debate, the resolutions were adopted, and the government proceeded to organize their "board of visitors." To the president and vice-president were added F. H. Stimpson, F. W. Lincoln, jun. T. R. Marvin, and Granville Mears, on the part of the government; and from the association at large, Stephen Fairbanks, George Darracott, George G. Smith, Otis Tufts, and Joseph M. Wightman; and these constituted the board; — the president acting as chairman. The organization being completed, Mr. Lincoln offered another series of resolutions, as follows: —

*Resolved*, That the government feel a deep interest in the mechanics and engineers' school, established by Mr. Tilden; and, in order to exhibit our confidence in him, and our regard for the welfare of that class of young men for whom it was especially designed, and in conformity with the former usages of the association, and the present sympathies of the members, we believe it will be wise to appropriate a certain sum for the purposes of instruction.

*Resolved*, That the library committee be authorized to offer to the apprentices' association ten scholarships in said school, the conditions of which shall be, that each pupil shall be a member of said association, shall be of good manners and unblemished character, shall be elected to said honor by the ballots of his fellow-members, and shall at the close of the term present to the board of visitors an account of his attendance and the progress he has made in the studies of said school.

*Resolved*, That the president be instructed to ask the association, at the next quarterly meeting, for an appropriation of One hundred dollars, to carry the foregoing resolutions into effect.

These resolutions were also adopted. The president having suggested "that a gold medal be presented to such a scholar, sent to the school by the government from the apprentices' library association, as shall make most progress in his studies during the year," the subject was referred, by the association, to the government.*

Stephen M. Allen, a member, proposed that the association should afford aid to an association, having for its object the erection of a monument to the memory of Robert Fulton. On motion of George G. Smith, it was moved that the government have full power to procure a stone, with such inscriptions as they may deem proper, for the proposed monument. The motion was afterwards withdrawn, at the request of Granville Mears, who offered the following resolutions, which, after having been read, were laid on the table: —

*Resolved*, That, in common with every patriotic American, and every votary of science throughout the civilized world, the members of this association entertain the profoundest admiration of the lofty genius and expanded intellect of the illustrious Fulton, whose magnificent discoveries have reflected honor upon his age and country, and contributed so largely to the advancement of human happiness.

*Resolved*, That the memory of so noble a benefactor of his race ought to be cherished, and venerated, and perpetuated, especially in this his native land; and that we therefore hail, with feelings of enthusiasm, the grateful project of honoring that memory, by the erection of a memorial worthy of his fame, on an interesting and beautiful spot in the heart of our country, — a spot endeared and hallowed by the remembrance, that in the early stages of his great enterprize, some of those researches were there commenced, from which have resulted the most gigantic improvements that Art has ever grafted upon Nature.

*Resolved*, That we heartily and earnestly commend the proposed undertaking to the warmest affections and most genorous regard of the pub-

* It does not appear from the record, that there was any further action in regard to the medal, during the year. Nor is there any report from the board of visitors concerning the school, — which was merely a private enterprize of Mr. Tilden's, in which he wished to engage the patronage of the association, thereby to make it more successful, than he had been able to do; and the sanction of the association was cheerfully given to it, on the belief that it might be of more use, "having the element of personal enterprize," than the previous efforts of the association in the same direction. If the plan has proved to be a failure, it has not been the fault of the association. Our connection with it was honorable in its character, and manifested a desire to encourage and foster any enterprize, that might benefit the rising generation of mechanics.

lib-spirited people of Massachusetts; trusting, that in the promotion of a work so honorable to our national character, the citizens of this commonwealth will maintain that reputation for consistent liberality and active gratitude, which they have hitherto enjoyed.

The resolutions were afterwards referred to a committee, consisting of F. W. Lincoln, jun. G. Mears, G. G. Smith, James Clark, and S. M. Allen.

The library committee offered the following report, April 3:—

In November, 1847, a committee of fifteen was appointed to make arrangements for a library, reading and conversation room, for the use of the association. This committee entered upon their duties with a good deal of alacrity and spirit, and it was thought that its objects might be speedily accomplished.

The peculiar pecuniary circumstances of the association for the last two years, together with the changes that have occurred in the organization of the committee, two chairmen having successively declined, as also several other vacancies, renders it the duty of the remaining members to close up its business and ask for a discharge. The whole duty of the committee, as instructed upon their appointment, has not perhaps been fully performed, but enough has been done to satisfy the association that something was attempted, and that their appointment was not altogether useless. The association, by a unanimous vote, in January, 1848, laid an assessment of Two dollars upon each member, to give to the committee the means to hire a room and properly furnish it with the necessary furniture and give a start to the enterprize.

The room which we now occupy was accordingly leased for a term of years. It was in a very imperfect state, and a considerable amount of the assessment was necessary to defray the expense of parting off the government's room from the main hall, and putting them both in such order as the wants and respectability of the association seem to require. These rooms have been found amply large and convenient for all our business purposes, and have furnished the association a permanent location for its archives and other property, of a character which it has never before enjoyed.

After the rooms were put in order, the committee, agreeably to a vote of the association, subscribed for a large number of the newspapers of the day, and the principal English and American periodicals. The members were notified by the secretary of the fact, and were cordially invited by that affable gentleman, to visit the rooms for their perusal, he pledging himself to be present certain hours in each day. But few availed themselves of this privilege, and so little interest was evinced in the matter by the members, that it was thought best to discontinue the publications

with the year's subscription, and to close the room excepting for special business.

We have no doubt that this experiment of a room for reading and social intercourse, may be tried hereafter with better success, when our financial situation is such that it will warrant the rooms being open at all hours of the day and evening with the proper attendants.

The committee have not thought it expedient, for obvious reasons, to make a direct personal appeal to the members for donations either in cash or books. They have, however, received some donations unsolicited. They have had the periodicals bound, and have purchased some valuable works, which they thought ought to be in possession of the association. These books have been put in good order and catalogued, and are now ready for circulation among our members.

The association are indebted to the Architectural Society, who have given us their entire library, consisting of some rare and valuable works. We have also received handsome donations from Robert C. Winthrop, an honorary member, and Henry N. Hooper, Esq. Joseph T. Buckingham, and Peter C. Jones, members of the association. There are other gentlemen who have expressed their intention to do likewise, and whose volumes we hope soon to see upon our shelves.

We have thus commenced a library, and added a new feature to the association. We may congratulate ourselves upon its establishment, and express the hope that it is destined to be enlarged and be commensurate in character with its standing and rank. All may not be alike interested in its success, but as all have so freely contributed to its introduction, it should ever receive the fostering care of those who shall be appointed to conduct our affairs. It consists of about two hundred volumes.

We have ascertained from the treasurer's books, that the amount collected from the library assessment is $1,116. The amount expended is $806 83. Fitting up room and furniture, $643 72. For books, periodicals, &c. $163 11. Leaving a balance of upwards of $300, — which ought to be sacredly reserved for the purchase of valuable books.

In conclusion, the committee would recommend that the library be placed under the charge of the government, and that they be authorized to make such arrangements respecting it, as they may deem expedient.

GRANVILLE MEARS, *Chairman.*

F. W. LINCOLN, Jun. *Secretary.*

The government was authorized to procure a stone for the national monument, in process of erection at Washington, and to place thereon such inscription as they may think proper, and to cause it to be transported to the builder of the monument.

Mr. Kuhn, the secretary, having received an appointment from the government of the United States, resigned the office

of secretary. Frederick H. Stimpson was elected to fill his place, and his acceptance of the office caused a vacancy in the board of trustees, which was filled by the choice of Joseph M. Wightman.

On Friday, March 29, the government held a special meeting, for the purpose of attending the funeral of Samuel T. Armstrong, who died very suddenly on the evening of the twenty-fifth. The funeral was also attended by many other members.* At the quarterly meeting, April 3, F. W. Lincoln, jun., after a few appropriate remarks, offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted: —

*Resolved*, That the recent death of the Hon. Samuel T. Armstrong, who for upwards of forty years was an active member of this association, always interested in its welfare, and receiving from it, in the years 1828

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* Samuel Daniel Armstrong was the son of John Armstrong, and was born in Dorchester, April 25, 1784. He lost his father in early life, and, soon after that event, was placed as an apprentice in the office of Manning & Loring, then the most [illegible] book-printers in Boston, except Thomas & Andrews. At the expiration of his apprenticeship, he began business in State-street, in connection with Joshua Belcher, and published a weekly periodical, called the Emerald. This partnership was not of long continuance. Mr. Armstrong set up a printing-office in Charlestown, and printed the Panoplist, — a monthly periodical, devoted to religious matters, and the promotion of foreign missionary enterprises. He removed to Boston, in 1811, and pursued the business of publishing and bookselling. He continued the publication of the Panoplist, and published large editions of many popular religious works. Among the larger works issued from his press was Scott's Family Bible. These popular works laid the foundation of a career of prosperity, which has seldom had a parallel in the history of Boston printers and booksellers. His industry was untiring, his energy and perseverance were indefatigable, his publications were popular with a large and active religious sect, and his profits were always sure and always increasing. He could not be otherwise than rich, and he retired from active business when comparatively a young man, with a property, worth over one hundred thousand dollars. He served the city of Boston once or twice as a representative in the Legislature, and was once chosen a senator of the county of Suffolk. He was lieutenant-governor of the state a number of years, in the administrations of Levi Lincoln and John Davis, and was acting governor during ten months of the year 1835, — Governor Davis having been chosen a senator in Congress. The next year, 1836, Mr. Armstrong was elected mayor of Boston, but thereafter declined a re-election. This was the close of his public life. He was president of our association in 1828 and 1829. As a private member he was active and influential, and as president, was jealous of the reputation of the institution, and exerted himself in every possible way, to promote its prosperity and honor. He visited Europe twice, and spent some years in London, Paris, Rome, and other celebrated places. On the twenty-sixth of March, 1850, he attended a business meeting of one of the numerous societies of which he was a member, and returned to his home about seven in the evening. He sat down in his parlor and without any known premonitory symptom of mortality, or without a gasp, expired.

and 1829, its highest honor, — calls for the expression of our sincere regret and sorrow.

*Resolved*, That we revere his memory for that integrity of purpose, which distinguished him as well in his private relations as in his public official character, for that practical wisdom and steady industry, which rendered him an efficient man in all his undertakings, and enabled him to fill with so much credit the honorable duties of friend, associate and citizen.

*Resolved*, That while we would most respectfully tender to his widow our sympathy and condolence in this her deep affliction, we would also express our gratitude that his life was spared so long, and that after his active days were over, it was his happy lot to spend their remainder in the enjoyment of those social amenities and blessings which so befit declining years, and that, finally, at its close, he was summoned to his reward, without those physical sufferings which so often accompany the departure of our dearest friends.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be sent to the widow and family of the deceased, and also that they be entered upon the records of the association.

By invitation from the municipal authorities of the city, a portion of the members, (about two hundred,) joined the funeral procession, in honor of Zachary Taylor, president of the United States, deceased. William Eaton was appointed marshal, and Wyatt Richards standard-bearer, on the occasion.

The "World's Fair," to be held in London in 1851, was introduced into the discussions of the association, in consequence of letters and documents transmitted by Mr. Lawrence, the United States' minister at the court of Great Britain. The government, to whom the subject had been referred, reported, August 28, that, "as the National Institute at Washington have been appointed a central committee, to take charge of all articles intended to be forwarded to said Fair, it was unnecessary for the association to take any further steps in the matter." The report was accepted and the committee discharged.

Some question having arisen in the government, as to the requirements of the constitution in regard to qualifications for membership, it was resolved, "That a person having acted as a master workman, in a mechanical employment, and subsequently changing his business for other avocations, not re-

cognized by the constitution, is not eligible as a candidate for membership.

The Sixth Exhibition and Fair of the association was opened at Faneuil and Quincy Halls, on Wednesday, September 11, and closed on Saturday, September 28. The number of invoices entered was One thousand seven hundred and twenty, — being sixty-seven more than the number presented at any previous exhibition. There was a larger amount of articles exhibited than on any former occasion, but some important manufactures (especially that of woolen cloth) were but poorly represented. The display of labor-saving machinery was highly spoken of. There were many gratifying specimens of the skill of machinists and manufacturers from the West and the South. The number of awards was as follows: — Gold medals, 15; silver medals, 150; bronze medals, 109; diplomas, 220. The exhibition was visited by delegations from the Bangor, Portland, Lowell, Worcester, Providence, and New-Bedford Mechanic Associations, and the Franklin Institute. Invitations were extended to various other industrial institutions and to many distinguished individuals. An address was delivered by John S. Skinner, a gentleman well known for his labors, during many years, for the promotion of agricultural and mechanical improvements. In his address Mr. Skinner descanted freely and learnedly on the sympathy that exists between all the great branches of national industry; and showed how impossible it is for one pursuit to prosper and go forward to a high degree of development, while others are languishing around it, by illustrations, drawn from his own personal experience.

The proceeds of this exhibition amounted to *Twenty thousand four hundred and fifty dollars and twenty-five cents.*

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|---|---|
| At the commencement of the year 1850, there was a balance in the treasury of . . . . . | $2,749 65 |
| The receipts of the year, including assessments, admission fees, and arrearages paid to the secretary, rent of Revere House and Quincy Hall, and proceeds of the sixth exhibition, were . . . . . | 37,844 12 |
| | $39,844 12 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Brought forward, | | $39,844 12 |
| The disbursements, to the committee of relief, families of deceased members, secretaries, the mechanic and engineer's school, library committee, funerals of President Taylor and S. T. Armstrong, rent of Quincy Hall and association rooms, repairs of Revere House, insurance, taxes, interest on loans, redemption of script, expenses of the sixth exhibition, and contingencies, . . . . . | | 32,822 01 |
| Leaving a balance over expenditure, | | $7,022 11 |
| The property of the association, exclusive of furniture, books, &c. to which no money value could be assigned, consisted of the Revere House, costing . . . . . | | $143,608 38 |
| Cash in the treasury, . . . . . | | 7,022 11 |
| Arrearages due from members, . . . . . | | 1,002 00 |
| | | $151,632 49 |
| The association was indebted, — bills payable, for loans from the Provident Institution for Savings, . | $65,000 00 | |
| Unredeemed script, . . . . . | 3,500 00 | |
| Interest accrued, . . . . . | 2,055 00 | |
| Insurance, . . . . . | 150 00 | |
| Unsettled bills of the sixth exhibition, . . | 750 00 | — 71,455 00 |
| Leaving a net balance of | | $80,177 49 |

The finance committee concluded their report, by repeating the well-merited complimentary notice of the accuracy of the treasurer's accounts, and of his untiring efforts to promote the prosperity of the association.

The persons admitted to membership were: —

Benjamin White, Printer.
A. F. Block, Chemist.
William B. Little, Chemist.
Jefferson Wiley, Printer.
George Ross, Gilder.
Robert Briggs, jun. Civil Engineer.
William F. Goodwin, Painter.
Morritz Hoffman, Printer.
Cyrus Carpenter, Tin-plate-worker.
Joseph Cranch Bond, Watch-maker.
Richard F. Bond, Watch-maker.
Charles C. Connelly, Carpenter.
George W. Briggs, Bookbinder.
James Perkins, Blacksmith.
John P. Lovell, Gun-maker.
Samuel F. Crosby, Silversmith.
Anthony Waterman, Carpenter.
Enoch H. Ball, Copper-plate printer.
Henry P. Fairbanks, Manufacturer.
Uriah A. Boyden, Civil Engineer.
Henry Pettes, Manufacturer.
Henry E. Turner, Tin-plate-worker.
Thomas J. Bailey, Marble-worker.
Horace Conn, Leather-manufact'er.
Edward Howard, Clock and Balance maker.
David P. Davis, Clock and Balance maker.
John J. Rayner, Coach-maker.

Several members signified their wish to withdraw from the association, and, having paid all assessments, were honorably discharged. Seventeen members were discharged for long delinquency.

Enoch Dennis, Abel Bowen,* Samuel T. Armstrong, Ebenezer Shute,† Noah Blanchard, Winslow Lewis,‡ Isaac Dupee, and Afred S. Sandford, deceased.

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* Abel Bowen was born in Greenbush, N. Y. December 23, 1790, and lived with his parents till 1805, when he was placed as an apprentice to a printer in Hudson. In 1812 he removed to Boston, and commenced the business of engraving on wood,—an art which had till then, been but little practised in Boston. He was the compiler of a "Pictorial History of Boston," and was concerned in many enterprizes, in which the aid of his art and skill were successfully brought to the illustration of publications of various kinds. For some years previous to his death he resided in Chelsea, and died there, on the eleventh of March, 1850. He was a modest and industrious man.

† Ebenezer Shute was born in Malden, January 25, 1775, and, at an early age, was apprenticed to a Mr. Loring of Charlestown, to learn the trade of a carpenter. He completed his apprenticeship with a Mr. Goodwin of Boston, and worked at his trade as a journeyman. He was connected some years with the late Joab Hunt, and then formed a partnership with Joseph Woodcock, on Snow's wharf, at the north part of Boston. In 1820 he was appointed a constable of the town, and was active as a police officer in suppressing vice in a particular part of it. He was one of the first officers appointed to attend the police court, and was constant in his service till within a year or two of his death, and had an important agency in the detection of criminal offenders. He died on the twenty-third of May, 1850.

‡ Winslow Lewis was born in Wellfleet, May 11, 1770. He was the son of Winslow Lewis. His grandfather was the Rev Isaiah Lewis, who officiated fifty-seven years as the minister of Wellfleet Mr. Lewis was, for many years, an enterprizing and skillful ship-master, and, for near half a century, was connected with the lighthouse establishment. "The services which he rendered the government (in the words of an obituary notice in the Boston Journal) and to our mercantile community, were incalculable, and will cause his name to be long held in respect and veneration, by all who have business on the great ocean. His strong practical mind, indomitable perseverance, and industrious habits, compensated for any deficiency in classical knowledge or scientific attainments; and few men have labored more constantly or more successfully through a long life, than Captain Winslow Lewis, and his name will be remembered, and associated with whatever is true and excellent in man, long after the almost countless beacons, which he erected to warn the approaching mariner of danger, shall have crumbled into dust." Mr. Lewis represented the city of Boston, once, in the Legislature, was a member of the first common council, under the city charter, and served two years as an alderman. He was an active and efficient member of the Humane Society. He became a member of our association in 1814. He died in Roxbury, May 20, 1850, at the age of eighty years, in the full enjoyment, up to that date, of that vigor of intellect, buoyancy of spirit, and physical constitution, for which he had ever been distinguished.

# 1851.

Annual meeting, January 8. Mr. Lincoln, from the committee appointed in April, 1850, to take into consideration certain resolutions concerning the Fulton monument, reported as follows: —

Civilized men have, in all ages, testified their respect for the dead, by appropriate monuments. In the private walks of life affection plants its monumental stone over the graves of departed kindred; while in public life, a grateful country raises its shaft and column to commemorate the deeds of its illustrious citizens. These testimonials, while honoring the genius and virtues of the departed, are considered of great benefit to the living, as their tendency is, to excite to a generous emulation in heroic deeds, and to challenge the beholder to a similar consecration of his time and talents to the public good.

Among the acknowledged benefactors of his race, the name of Robert Fulton is universally applauded. As the name of Washington is without a peer, considered in relation to his political services to his country, so the name of Fulton stands acknowledged as one of the brightest in that galaxy of distinguished Americans, who have by their inventive genius carried forward the industrial arts to their present state, and made our country not only the home of the free, but the very theatre upon which the grandest achievements of modern science have been demonstrated. Probably no event in American history, since the revolution, was more pregnant in important results than the first successful application of steam to navigation. One of the most efficient means to keep a people united in a country so extensive and magnificent in its proportions as our own, is to furnish the instrument for a safe and rapid transit, bringing different communities, separated by thousands of miles, into frequent communication with each other.

Viewed in this light, the great invention of Fulton assumes a deep significance, and the patriot no less than the philanthropist and the man of science should join alike in any tribute to his memory. Accordingly we find that the project of a monument to his memory has been agitated with more or less spirit ever since his decease. The difficulties arising from the choice of a location, — some wishing it upon the banks of the Hudson, and others farther west, — have delayed the commencement of the enterprize until the past year. An association has been organized in Louisville, Kentucky, and the site selected for the monument in the lower Ohio, near the town of Cannelton, Indiana. The choice of the location is considered highly felicitous, it being on a high bluff, commanding a prospect of one of those mighty streams of the West, which have in a great degree become the highways of the nation, through the genius of

[illegible] associations of a personal character, [illegible] the land given to him by Congress [illegible] services to the country.

The project is recommended to favor by President Fillmore, Messrs. Webster, Clay, Cass, Littenden, Corwin, King, and other distinguished men. The president of the association is Judge Huntington, of Indiana. The president of our mechanic association is considered, ex officio, one of its honorary vice-presidents; and, as far as we can learn, the association has in it the elements of an efficient and successful organization.

The resolutions referred to your committee express a commendation and approval of the enterprise. The plan having been brought before us, we think it deserves nothing less at our hands. The passage of the resolutions will not entangle us in any alliances foreign to the design of the association, but is simply an expression of our feelings, and a recommendation to others to favor the work. Your committee, however, would go still further, and, in accordance with a suggestion of the president of the monument association, would propose that our government be authorized to furnish a block of Massachusetts granite for the column, whenever it shall be in such a state of progress as to warrant the expenditure. And they would close with a recommendation to adopt the resolution submitted to their consideration.

Signed by the committee.

F. W. LINCOLN, Jun.
JAMES CLARK,
GEORGE G. SMITH,
STEPHEN M. ALLEN,
GRANVILLE MEARS.

This report and the resolve in relation to it were referred to the government.

The president presented a document containing a condensed statement of the affairs of the association for the preceding three years; after which the following officers were elected for the year:—

Jonas Chickering, *President.*
William Cranch Bond, *Vice-President.*
Robert Marsh,
Joel Wheeler,
Frederic W. Lincoln, jun.
Theophilus R. Marvin,
Samuel Adams,
Hiram Bosworth,
Osmyn Brewster, *Treasurer.*
Frederick H. Stimpson, *Secretary.*
Granville Mears,
Matthew Binney,
Joseph M. Wightman,
John Cowdin,
Charles G. King,
Elias W. Goddard,
*Trustees.*

On motion of J. Green, jun. the government was directed to inquire into the expediency of procuring portraits of all

the past presidents of the association, to be placed in the hall. In the government the matter was referred to a committee, who reported that the proposed measure was inexpedient, and the report was accepted.

A valuable collection of public documents was presented to the association by the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop.

At the government meeting, May 13, the secretary stated that certain experiments had been made by the vice-president, Mr. Bond, with "the free pendulum," and proposed that they should be repeated at the expense of the association, at the Bunker-Hill monument, if leave for that purpose could be obtained from the monument corporation. The subject was referred to the vice-president, the secretary, and J. M. Wightman. This committee reported progress on the 16th of June. It was voted, that the secretary send to each member a ticket, inviting him and a female of his family to visit the exhibition. At the quarterly meeting, July 2, on motion of Mr. Wightman, the association "voted, that the treasurer be authorized to pay the bills for the 'pendulum experiment,' not exceeding Three hundred dollars in all, when duly certified and allowed by the government." On motion of Henry N. Hooper, it was "voted, that the government be requested to ascertain, through a committee of their own body, whether there is, or is not, a diurnal variation of the Bunker-Hill monument from a true perpendicular, and, if so, how much said variation amounts to; also, if the rotation of the earth has been fully demonstrated by the experiment; and report to the association." The chairman of the committee made a partial report, which was re-committed, and subsequently reported in the form following: —

The committee appointed at a former meeting of the government of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, to consider and act upon the subject of "Foucault's" free pendulum experiment, have attended to that duty, and ask leave to report: —

The direct evidence of harmony in the laws and operations of Nature, which even the simple apparatus of the free pendulum brings home to the mind of every reflecting person, has recently excited in our community an uncommon degree of interest in the subject to which the attention of your committee has been directed. Presuming, therefore, that the

encouragement of this laudable spirit of inquiry to be in some measure the purpose of the association, in directing the repetition of what has been called the "Foucault experiment," your committee sought to repeat it, on a scale that would leave no doubt, in regard to the truth of the theory which had been advanced, on the minds of those who should witness it, and at the same time to decide certain questions of fact in regard to the uniformity of the apparent azimuthal motion of the plane of oscillation of long and short pendulums.

The Bunker-Hill monument, from its great height and stability, as well as convenience of access for the public, seeming to offer the best situation for the repetition of this experiment, your committee made a visit of examination to it, and found there was a conical space within the monument seven feet in diameter at the base, which gradually lessened to the diameter of four feet at the top; allowing free action for a pendulum two hundred and sixteen feet in length, — the only obstruction being a small model of the former monument, which had been placed there by King Solomon's Lodge, in memory of General Warren.

The committee having satisfied themselves that the place was adapted to the intended purpose, made immediate application to the Hon. G. W. Warren, president, and to several members of the board of trustees of the Bunker-Hill Monument Association, for its use on this occasion. A special meeting of the board was subsequently held, and the required permission granted to the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, in the most prompt and liberal manner.

The small marble model having been removed, under the direction of the Masonic Lodge which had placed it there, a platform was laid at the base of the tower, and several concentric circles drawn upon it, the outer one being divided into three hundred and sixty degrees, with radii to facilitate the observation of the apparent azimuthal movement of the pendulum. At the height of five feet above the platform a wooden ring was secured to the stone work, bearing within it a movable circle, to which was attached a sight vane, reading by vernier, for the more accurate observation of the plane of oscillation.

As it was found that the current of air within the monument would cause irregularities in the action of the pendulum to an extent that would very much embarrass the observer, a door, with plate glass, was substituted for the iron grating at the opening left for observation; a firm support was made at the top, vertically situated in regard to the centre of the platform below; the pendulum itself consisted of a thirty-two pound cannon ball, enclosed in brass circles, having a steel pointer below, with adjustments whereby it could be brought directly under the point of suspension; the wire was of annealed steel of the size commonly known as No. 20, and was attached to the ball by a clamp screw having a hole pierced through it of the same size as the wire; the same kind of clamp screw was provided for the suspension above, through which the wire was drawn and secured to an iron bolt.

The cannon ball was lent to us for the purpose by Dr. Morrill Wyman, of Cambridge. It possesses incidentally considerable historical interest, as being one of those thrown from the "Lively," British frigate, on the retreat of the American forces across Charlestown Neck, after the battle of Bunker-Hill.

The rings and apparatus for adjustment were prepared at the manufactory of H. N. Hooper & Company. The sight vane, verneir and scale, were made by Mr. Stowell of Charlestown.

On comparing the results obtained from the observations made with this pendulum of two hundred and sixteen feet, with those obtained from one of thirty feet, suspended at the Cambridge observatory, the committee find that the primary object of the association in prosecuting this inquiry on so large a scale, has been satisfactorily accomplished. The Cambridge and Bunker-Hill pendulum, although differing in radius one hundred and eighty-six feet, give the same time of rotation of the earth, mutually confirming the hypothesis of Foucault, founded upon the law of persistence of motion of a free pendulum, and of the inverse ratio of the times of rotation to the sines of the latitude.

The time occupied by a single vibration of the Bunker-Hill pendulum, at the temperature of 74 deg. was found to be 8.33 sec. while that of a single vibration of the Cambridge observatory pendulum required, at the temperature of 58 deg. 2.95 sec. the computed times being 8.14 sec. and 3.03 respectively, without allowance being made for the resistance of the air and weight of the suspension wire; but the omission of these corrections does not affect the main question. We have, however, for prolonged observation, encountered the same difficulty which has arrested the progress of other experimenters; it is that of a continual *reduction of the arc of vibration*, occasioned by the resistance of the air. The friction in this case being extremely small, a more accurate determination of the rate of azimuthal motion must therefore be postponed, until some method has been devised for maintaining this arc without influencing the direction of motion in the pendulum.

Perhaps it may be thought worth while to notice the fact, although it was by no means an unexpected one to the committee, that, in the prosecution of these pendulum experiments, it has been satisfactorily determined that the Bunker-Hill monument occasionally deviates from its normal position, in consequence of the unequal heating of its sides by the sun. During a clear day the greater heat of the direct rays of the sun falling in the morning upon the eastern side of the column, causes it to expand more than the opposite side, which is less heated; the effect of this unequal heating is to *bend* the monument towards the west, thereby producing a westerly deviation of the plumb-line of about half an inch to a radius of 216 feet; after noon, as the western side becomes heated and the eastern cools, the axis of the column passes the vertical in regard to its centre below, and during the night regains its first position. The curve described by the point at the lower extremity of the plumb-line is

one of considerable intricacy, not merely on account of the form of the monument, but also of the constantly varying intensity of the solar rays. A member of the committee had occasion to notice, some years ago, while in charge of the Cambridge observatory, a similar effect of the sun's rays on the granite piers of his transit instrument. In this case, the test object was the meridian mark, twelve miles distant; the deviation was at first ascribed to lateral refraction in the atmosphere, but subsequent examination and trial showed that it was caused by the unequal expansion and contraction of the piers from change of temperature.

As the Bunker-Hill monument afforded an excellent opportunity for testing the instrument called the aneroid barometer, under the circumstances of rapid and considerable change of height above the surface of the ground, the occasion was embraced for that purpose, — more especially for the reason that the aneroid is becoming much relied upon by seamen. The experiments have shown the extreme sensitiveness and general correctness of the instrument. The trial was conducted in the following manner: —

Two aneroid barometers of the usual construction were first compared with the standards at the Cambridge observatory, and were afterwards taken, by way of the Harvard Branch Railroad, to Charlestown, thence to Boston, and there compared with an excellent standard barometer made by Temple; from thence they were taken to the monument, and placed for a time on the platform, in order that they might acquire the temperature of the air inside the building. The indications of both instruments were recorded, with the temperature, and one of them taken by hand to the top of the monument, the readings being noted, during the ascent, at eight stations, which were, the platform below, the several openings in the sides, and at the top, from whence, provision having been made for that purpose, the instrument was quickly lowered to the observer below. It was then read off, and, on a signal being given, was again hoisted to the top, where its readings were recorded simultaneously with the one below. This process was repeated, occasionally exchanging instruments, until a sufficient number of observations had been obtained. Readings were also made at the terminus of the Harvard Branch at Cambridge, the Charlestown and Fitchburg stations, and at the observatory, both in going and returning. A copy of the record of the observations accompanies this report.

The number of visitors to witness the experiment of the pendulum has been very considerable; they have expressed their satisfaction, and a conviction of the truth of the theory, almost without exception. The trustees of the monument have assured the committee that no injury has been done to it by our operations and that they feel entirely satisfied with the proceedings generally.

WILLIAM C. BOND,
FREDERICK H. STIMPSON,
JOSEPH M. WIGHTMAN,
*Committee.*

*December* 16, 1851.

The *fifteenth* triennial festival was held on the first day of October. By the recommendation of the government, the public parade, which had made an imposing part of the celebration for near fifty years, was dispensed with. An address was delivered at the Masonic Temple to the members of the association, by Joseph H. Buckingham. A copy of the address was requested for publication and granted. In the evening there was a brilliant assemblage of ladies and gentlemen, at Faneuil Hall. Music and dancing, a supper, and the usual number of speeches from the guests, closed the festival.

At the government meeting, December 9, a letter from J. T. Buckingham was received, asking the liberty to take the several volumes of records, for the purpose of examining them, with a view of compiling a history of the institution. The request was granted, and the secretary authorized to deliver the records, agreeably to the application.

The following were admitted members: —

William White, Sheet-iron-worker
Silas W. Wilder, Printer.
Horace Smith, Hatter.
John Hatchman, Gilder.
John Taylor, Shipwright.
Edward Cram, Manufacturer.
William Harris, Harness-maker.
Albert Bisbee, Machinist.
Benjamin Perley Poore, Printer.
Edward L. Balch, Printer.
Curtis Barnes, Carpenter.
Cornelius Driscoll, Tailor.
Erastus B. Bigelow, Manufacturer.
William White, Printer.
John B. Wilson, Carpenter.
George E. Porter, Watch-maker.
William H. Hill, Bookbinder.
George A. Fields, Bookbinder.
Henry Guild, Jeweler.

The following members died during the year: — Thomas Edmands,* Francis Walker, John Clark, jun. Edward Bug-

* Thomas Edmands was a native of Charlestown, and was born in February, 1780. He served a regular and faithful apprenticeship to the printing business with William Manning, and was employed by Mr. Manning, as a foreman, for a couple of years after he was twenty-one. He then opened a grocery store in Charlestown, in connection with his father. He followed this employment but a short time, before he formed a partnership with Ensign Lincoln, and carried on the business of printing and bookselling, in this connection, till the death of Mr Lincoln. Shortly after that event he relinquished the business, and removed to a farm in Newton, where he died in January, 1851, having nearly completed the seventy-first year of his age. Mr. Edmands was a well-educated printer. The numerous works from the press of Lincoln & Edmands, are memorials of his skill and accuracy. He was never ambitious of public notoriety. His virtues were not of an ostentatious character, but were such as procured for him unbounded respect and confidence. His services were freely given to the public,

bee, Joseph Jones, Charles W. Cummings, Edward Maxwell, Edward Adams, Cyrus Hastings, Joseph Jenkins,* David W. Hill, Ezra H. Ball, Francis Lecompte, Joseph Cheeny, John G. Rogers,† and James Knott.

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whom he served as a member of the school committee of Boston, and as a representative in the Legislature. He joined the association in 1827, and promptly paid the sum necessary to constitute him a life member. It does not appear from the treasurer's books that his family ever received the funeral fee, which may therefore be considered as a donation to the fund.

* Joseph Jenkins was a native of Barre, in the county of Worcester, and was there initiated in the business of a carpenter. He removed to Boston about the year 1808, and pursued his calling with the ordinary success which awaits industry when unattended by greediness of gain. About the year 1820, he obtained a contract from the government for building a custom-house at New-Orleans. Mr. Jenkins was a theoretical and practical architect, and studied his favorite science with enthusiasm. He prepared the greater part of the material for completing his contract, and manufactured the doors, windows, cornices, &c. in his own workshop in Boston, whence they were shipped to New-Orleans, ready to take their places in the building. The contract was a profitable one, and Mr. Jenkins returned to Boston, after about a year's absence, with a handsome sum of money in his pocket. Unfortunately, he entered into speculations which ended in serious embarrassments, and reduced him to extreme poverty. For many years he struggled hard to regain the independence he had lost. His plans seemed to be well laid and to promise success, but they all failed. The last project which engaged his attention and disappointed his expectations, was the erection of the edifice, formerly known as the "Museum Building," at the corner of Tremont and Bromfield-streets, which he afterwards converted to a splendid hotel, and called it the Montgomery House, and which is now the printing and publishing office of "Gleason's Pictorial Parlor Companion." The estate was hampered with a law-suit, which eventuated in the hopeless ruin of Mr. Jenkins and the serious injury of friends who had been drawn in to his aid. He was possessed of much natural ability, and respectable literary and scientific attainments. Soon after his return from New-Orleans, he was nominated, by a large meeting of his fellow-citizens, for mayor of the city, — then recently incorporated. He failed of an election, but was afterwards chosen an alderman, and a member of the Legislature. He became a member of our association in 1810, — delivered the address at the triennial festival in 1818, — was a trustee in 1822 and 1823, — and vice-president in 1825 and 1826. He was an officer of some importance in the militia, and rose to the rank of colonel. He was also a member of the society of Freemasons, and was esteemed for his candor and generosity, and for the fidelity with which he administered the affairs of the various masonic offices which he sustained. He died in Boston, October, 1851.

† John Gorham Rogers, born in Gloucester, May 28, 1793, was the son of John Gorham Rogers, a merchant of that place. He came to Boston at the age of seventeen, and entered the office of Dr. John Park, editor and publisher of the Boston Repertory, where he remained till twenty-one, as an apprentice to the printing business. When the Boston Type and Stereotype Foundry was established, he was appointed agent of the corporation, and occupied that position till 1842, when he resigned it on account of sickness. He suffered much from continued sickness till he died, December 29, 1851, in the fifty-ninth year of his age. Mr. Rogers was secretary of the association five years, and a trustee three years, two offices which he filled to the acceptance of the association.

# 1852.

Annual meeting, January 7. The following officers were elected: —

Jonas Chickering, *President.*
William Cranch Bond, *Vice-President.*
Osmyn Brewster, *Treasurer.*
Frederick H. Stimpson, *Secretary.*

Theophilus R. Marvin,
Hiram Bosworth,
Matthew Binney,
John Cowdin,
Elias W. Goddard,
Ebenezer H. Little,
Frederic W. Lincoln, jun.
Granville Mears,
Joseph M. Wightman,
Charles G. King,
George Yendell,
William Blake,
*Trustees.*

At the government meeting, February 27, Mr. Brewster stated that J. T. Buckingham was compiling a history of the association, being principally an abstract from the records, which he intended to present to the association. It was voted, on motion of Mr. Brewster, that Messrs. F. W. Lincoln, jun. Osmyn Brewster, and Joseph M. Wightman, be a committee to confer with Mr. Buckingham, and report at some future meeting. The committee reported at the next meeting. At the quarterly meeting in April, on motion of Robert Marsh, the subject was referred to the government, with power to dispose of the manuscript as they might deem proper.

A correspondence between the president of the association and John C. Park, Esq. concerning a silver snuff-box, — given by Benjamin Russell to one of Mr. Park's family, said to have been made by Paul Revere, senior, and to have been the subject of sundry accidents and anecdotes, — was read and recorded. The box was presented by Mr. Park to the president, and accepted, to be by him transmitted to his successor in office.

A special meeting of the association was held, October 28, to consider what measures should be adopted in order to testify the respect of the association for the memory of the Hon. Daniel Webster, an honorary member. On motion of Stephen Fairbanks, a committee, consisting of Messrs. Fair-

banks, G. Darracott, James Clark, Henry N. Hooper, John Rayner, Nathaniel Hammond, Enoch Hobart, Elijah Mears, and F. W. Lincoln, jun. was appointed to report resolutions. The committee reported the following, which were accepted and ordered to be placed on record: —

*Resolved*, That this association shares in the general sensibility and sorrow pervading this community, at the great national loss which the country has sustained in the recent decease of its eminent statesman and patriot, Daniel Webster.

*Resolved*, That while his departure from this life casts a gloom over the hearts of our countrymen in every part of the Union, as well as upon the friends of constitutional liberty throughout the world, yet this bereavement has a deeper poignancy of grief to us, who participated with him in those closer relations growing out of a common citizenship of the same city and commonwealth, and has also been enhanced by a still nearer bond to us in our associate capacity, as is testified in the fact that he has been, for many years, one of our most valued honorary members.

*Resolved*, That in Mr. Webster's life and career, we have had the most illustrous example of the full development of genius, under republican institutions, and its influence in return upon those institutions themselves, in their more perfect adaptation to the wants of the people, in accordance with the progressive spirit of the age. His efforts in behalf of the perpetuity of the constitution, and the sacred obligations of law; his interest in the education of the great mass of the people; his valuable services in the development of the agricultural and material resources of the country; and his devotion to the cause of manual labor and domestic industry, — all these, and more of a kindred nature, to the support of which he gave his matchless eloquence, impregnated with that staunch American patriotism, worthy of the Father of the Republic, have established for him a fame unsurpassed in the world, and bequeathed to his countrymen and posterity a personal example, and the record of a consummate wisdom, which, if heeded, will secure prosperity to our beloved land, as long as it remains "a power among the nations."

*Resolved*, That the government be authorized to take such further measures in relation to the illustrious deceased as they may deem expedient; also that the foregoing resolves be entered upon our records, and a copy of the same be transmitted to Mrs. Webster and her family.

It was voted that the government attend the funeral of Mr. Webster.

November 30. By invitation of the city council, the association, under the direction of F. W. Lincoln, jun. chief marshal, formed a part of the procession, and attended the funeral ceremonies in memory of Mr. Webster, at Faneuil Hall.

By the report of the committee of finance, made up to the close of the year, it appears that the property of the association, consisting of the Revere House, cash in the treasury, and assessments due from members, amounted to $147,991 36: and that, after deducting the indebtedness, there was a balance of $91,191 36; besides books, paintings, furniture, &c. to which no cash value was attached.

The following persons were admitted to membership: —

Charles Emerson, Bridge-builder.
Rufus M. Gale, Sailmaker.
Richard H. Goodwin, Blacksmith.
Lloyd Glover, Engraver.
Simon Hastings, Painter.
John A. Whipple, Daguerrotypist.
James F. Whittemore, Machinist.
James L. Lincoln, Machinist.
Samuel H. Gregory, Paper-hanging manufacturer.

Hon. MARSHALL P. WILDER was admitted an honorary member.

The following members died during the year: Joseph Bassett, Charles Bates, Joseph Hills, William T. Choate, William Bridge, Alexander Parris,* John Marsh, Caleb S. Pratt, Philip Peak, Simon G. Shipley,† Samuel R. Johnson,

* Alexander Parris was born in Halifax, Ms. November 24, 1781. When he was quite young, his father was killed by the falling of a tree in the state (then province) of Maine. At the age of sixteen he was apprenticed to Noah Bonney, a carpenter of Pembroke. In 1801, he removed to Portland, where he resided till 1812, when he was appointed captain of a corps of artificers, in the service of the United States, and was stationed at Plattsburgh. Here he remained about two years. In June, 1815, he removed to Boston, and superintended the building of the United States' arsenal at Watertown. He was associated with Colonel Loammi Baldwin, in the erection of the dry docks at Charlestown and Gosport. He was the principal architect of the marine hospital at Chelsea, St. Paul's church, and many other public buildings in Boston and the vicinity. Some of the light-houses on the coast stand as monuments of his science and skill as an architect and engineer. During the last seven years of his life he was civil engineer at the navy-yard at Portsmouth, N. H. He died, June 16, 1852. Mr. Parris was, in the best sense of the phrase, a *self-taught man*. He never went through a regular course of study as an architect, but gathered his knowledge from books, and by his intercourse with various persons, but principally from an Englishman by the name of Keever. He was unobtrusive in his deportment, liberal in his sympathies, ever ready to aid the needy and afflicted, a constant friend, and an intelligent and trust-worthy counselor.

† Simon G. Shipley was born in Pepperell, Ms. October 27, 1798. In the summer of 1815, he left home, in search of employment, but without any settled plan before him. He came to Boston, and hearing that Alphonso Mason, a baker, at Cambridgeport, would receive an apprentice, he applied for the place, obtained it, and continued in it till he was twenty-one years of age. For four or five years after this, he was occupied as foreman in sundry bakeries in Boston. In 1824, he commenced business for himself in Union-street, where he remained twenty-eight years. Mr. Shipley was, for

Amasa G. Smith,* Jabez Bullard, Joshua Holden, and William Reed.

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## 1853.

The officers, chosen for this year, at the annual meeting, January 5, were: —

Jonas Chickering, *President.*
Frederic W. Lincoln, jun. *Vice-Pres.*
Osmyn Brewster, *Treasurer.*
Frederick H. Stimpson, *Secretary.*

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| Joseph M. Wightman, | Charles G. King, |
| John Cowdin, | Elias W. Goddard, |
| George Yendell, | Ebenezer H. Little, |
| William Blake, | John H. Thorndike, |
| Daniel Davies, | Pelham Bonney, |
| Calvin W. Haven, | Albert G. Browne, *Trustees.* |

The following members were appointed a committee of relief, and the sum of Twelve hundred dollars was placed at their disposal: — Henry Hutchinson, Thomas Mair, James Tolman, Nathaniel N. Bates, Simon G. Cheever, Robert Ripley, Roland Cushing, Stephen Shelton, and Samuel Newman.

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five years, a member of the common council, one year a member of the board of aldermen, and for several years a member of the school committee. He died of a cancer in the stomach, August 25, 1852. Mr. Shipley was enlisted, heart and soul, in the promotion of works of religion and charity. The Howard Benevolent Society, the Baptist Missionary Society, the Society for the Relief of Indigent Females, and the standing committee of the First Baptist Society, passed resolutions on the occasion of his death, as testimonials of respect for his character and deep regret for the loss sustained by his decease.

* Amasa G. Smith was born in Barre, Ms. March 13, 1801, and served his apprenticeship, as a housewright with Joseph Jenkins in Boston. He followed that occupation for a number of years, on his own account. He then laid aside the tools of his trade, and engaged extensively in the importation and sale of carpets, in connection with Job Taber, (who was also a housewright and a member of our association,) under the firm of Taber & Smith. After carrying on this business for about three years, Mr. Smith engaged in surveying lumber, giving it up, however, at intervals, during which he was employed in the building of the Montgomery House in Tremont-street, and the Brattle House in Cambridge. He held several important offices in the militia, among which were that of commander of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery, lieutenant-colonel of the second regiment, and commander of the first regiment of infantry. On the evening of the twenty-second of November, 1852, while sitting near the draw of the Lowell railroad bridge, waiting for a vessel to pass, Mr. Smith fell from the bridge and was drowned. His body was not found till the twenty-first of April, 1853, when it was recovered, in a remarkable state of preservation, not far from the spot where he was drowned. A funeral service was performed over his remains, at St. Mathew's church, South-Boston. Mr. Smith joined the association, as a life member, in 1826.

The government was directed to make arrangements for a seventh Exhibition and Fair, and the sum of Ten thousand dollars was appropriated to defray the expenses of it.

The government was also instructed to procure the delivery, during the autumn and winter, of a course of lectures on practical scientific subjects.

Before the close of this year several prominent members died. One of them, James Phillips, was the last of the living original members, except three persons who had seceded from the association.*

In obedience to the vote of the association, passed at the beginning of the year, the government arranged an Exhibition and Fair, which was opened to the public at Faneuil and

* John G. Loring died on the twenty-second of January. He was born in Hull, April 4, 1788 He was the son of Samuel Loring, and was a regular descendant, on the mother's side, from William Brewster, one of the "Pilgrim Fathers," who came from Leyden in the May-Flower. At the age of fourteen he began his apprenticeship with Nathaniel Alley, a well-known coppersmith, in Union-street, Boston. In 1817, he began business, for himself. His first apprentices were the gentlemen who were his partners at the time of his death. He died at his residence in Boston, of a disease of the heart. His life was not marked by any extraordinary event, but was a life of quiet, uniform goodness, and his whole deportment was that of an humble and sincere Christian.

David Francis, who died in March, in the seventy-fourth year of his age, was the eldest son of Stephen Francis, and was born in Boston, in October, 1779. Like most other sons of mechanics, he was indebted to the public schools for the rudiments of an education, which he improved by study and the advantages derived from an apprenticeship in a printing-office. When quite young, he was apprenticed to Belknap & Hall, the printers and publishers of a weekly paper, called the American Apollo. The publication failed, and Mr. Francis entered the office of Samuel Hall, a well-known printer and bookseller, where he remained till the age of twenty-one. He then formed a partnership with Edmund Munroe, — a connection in business which continued till the death of Mr. Francis, They were enterprizing publishers, and presented to the public many standard works, which had not before been printed in America. Mr. Francis was an active agent in the formation of the military company called the Rangers, in 1812, and was one of the officers at its first public parade. He was afterwards captain of the company; but, as military ambition was not his passion, he declined all further promotion. He was one of the principal founders of the Faustus association, (a society of printers,) and of a fund for the relief of widows and orphans. He joined our association in 1808, — was a trustee from 1814 to 1817, — secretary from that year to 1827, when he was elected vice-president, but declined a re-election at the end of that year. He was several times elected a representative in the Legislature from the city of Boston. Mr. Francis was always ready to engage in any benevolent project. Whatever his head contrived and his heart approved, his hand executed with promptness and alacrity. With him, friendship was something more than a name. His generous feelings operated silently, did their work without ostentation, and produced their effects in a way that showed how much more blessed it is to give than to receive.

Quincy Halls, on the fourteenth of September. A premium had been offered for a new diploma, which was awarded to Otto Heinigke, an artist of New-York. It is thus described in a journal published at the Exhibition: —

The centre is an allegorical representation of Union, designed to show the advantages and purposes of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association. It contains the figures of two men — mechanics — holding in their left hands, one a bundle of arrows, the other two horns of plenty twined together, — symbols of strength in union and the benefits of union. Their right hands are united over an altar, bearing on its front an endless chain of rings, drawn around an emblem of Charity.

Around this centre, are allegorical representations, intended to show the relation of the intelligent mechanic to Science and Art, and that he must keep pace with both, in order to maintain his true position. At the top, on the left, is Science, mounted on the winged horse of thought,

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James McAllaster, son of William McAllaster, was born in Bedford, N. H. November 30, 1779, and served an apprenticeship in that town, with James Gilmore. He settled in Boston in 1804. As a housewright he ranked among the most thorough workmen of his day, and was highly esteemed by his cotemporaries, not only as a first-rate mechanic, but as an upright and honorable man. Many edifices, of his construction, bear testimony to his skill in architecture and his integrity in fulfilling all his contracts. He was several times a representative in the Legislature from the city of Boston. For some years he was elected by the city council to the office of superintendant of public buildings. He was admitted to membership in our association in 1820, and served as a trustee in 1829 and 1830. He died in Boston, April 15, 1853.

Job Turner was born, April 26, 1786, in Pembroke, Ms. At the age of sixteen he became an apprentice to Turner Crooker of Boston, to learn the trade of a mason. Soon after he was twenty-one years old he entered into a partnership with Mordecai S. Wallace, and the business was carried on several years, under the firm of Wallace & Turner. Mr. Turner was appointed master-mason of the Navy-yard at Charlestown, in which capacity he served the government sixteen years. During this period, the Dry Dock was built, — a work which will long be noticed as one of the most magnificent structures which the enterprize and skill of our mechanics have erected, and with which the name of Job Turner will always be associated. After he retired from the public service at the navy-yard, Mr. Turner engaged but little in active business, as a mechanic. Having acquired a competency by his industry, he occupied his time in the performance of various public and private duties. He was employed by the city government to superintend the erection of some of the public buildings, among which are the Hancock school-house and the insane hospital at South-Boston. Mr Turner was some time a member of the common council of the city. On Saturday, September 10, he was in his usual health, and, in company with his wife, visited the Atheneum. While there, he spoke of a numbness in one of his hands, and immediately fell upon the floor. He never spoke again, nor did he exhibit any sign of consciousness. He ceased to breath on the twelfth day of the month. Mr Turner left no children, but he had exercised the duties of a parent and a brother to some who had occasion to lament an event which deprived them of a valued relative and friend. He became a member of the association in 1832, and served the regular term as a member of the government. He had many friends in the association, by whom he was esteemed as an upright and liberal man.

striving upward, and endeavoring to lift the veil covering a sphinx,—symbolizing the secrets of nature. The progress of Science is watched by History, who sits on the opposite side, ready to record every new invention, while Fame proclaims it to the world.

At the base is Genius, with the radiant flame on his head, listening eagerly; next to him, on one side, is Experience, an aged man with hammer and scales; on the other Industry, with the bee-hive and windlass; the three showing on what chiefly depends the perfection of the Mechanic Arts.

In the rear are Agriculture, Mining and the Chase, bringing their contributions of raw materials; and Painting, Sculpture, Architecture, Mathematics, Chemistry and Electricity, as the nearest relatives and chief supporters of the Mechanic Arts.

The whole is supported and enclosed in a suitable ornament, bearing the Arms of Massachusetts and the American Eagle at the top; and a figure holding wreaths, as prizes to contributors, at the bottom.

## CONCLUSION.

The compiler of the annals, embraced in the preceding pages, is unwilling to conclude his labors, without offering a word of congratulation and encouragement to his associates. To those who became members of the association in its days of feebleness, and who sustained it with their best energies, through evil and through good report, it must be a proud satisfaction to see the child of their adoption grown up to maturity and assuming an honorable and important position among the numerous institutions which give to the metropolis of New-England a glorious name and an enviable fame among all the civilized nations of the earth. Those who have more recently enrolled their names on the catalogue of members, may learn from the example of their seniors, how much can be effected by perseverance, and how certain it is that resolution in pursuit and steadiness in progress will result in consummation.

It will have been seen that the association was organized by less than a hundred members, and with no fund but the annual payment of One dollar by each member. In ten years from its institution, the number of members did not amount to two hundred, and its available funds were too scanty to afford relief to the needy, except in sums almost too small to merit the thanks of the recipient. It was its lot,

also, to encounter obloquy and reproach, and to need all the efforts of its friends to secure it against calumnious opposition, and to redeem it from libelous defamation. The scene is changed. The number of members is near eight hundred. They are chiefly men of substance, many are men of wealth, and all, it is presumed, are industrious, intelligent, and prosperous, — except the few upon whom adversity has laid its iron hand; and to these few, whose names are on the list of beneficiaries, the committee of relief are able, — by annual and liberal appropriations from the funds, — to communicate comfort and consolation. The association has been able to provide schools for the education of apprentices in branches of learning suitable to their wants; — to create libraries, and to establish lectures, for the entertainment and instruction of its members and their families; — and, finally, to institute exhibitions and fairs, for the promotion of arts and the encouragement of domestic manufactures, by the awarding of premiums, gratuities, medals, and diplomas. Is it claiming too much to say that the association has done and is now doing, as much for the improvement, prosperity, and refinement of society, as any other institution which challenges the favor of the public?

Go on, then, brethren, confident in the faith, that still greater and more important results await your labors. You have funds and means, which are daily increasing, and will soon be ample for the accomplishment of still higher purposes and nobler ends. Poverty supplicates for relief; Ignorance waits for instruction; Art and Industry solicit your aid; your Country demands your affection and support; Humanity pleads for your sympathy; and to allure you onward, Religion presents her crown of immortality. Happy, thrice happy are they whose labors brighten and extend the golden chain of improvement, till it surround the community and connect each individual with the throne of God.

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